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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT

14 June 1990 - 10 April 1991

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1991

SUPPLEMENT No. 14

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APDC	Asian and Pacific Development Centre
APT	Asia-Pacific Telecommunity
ARSAP	agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
CCC	Customs Co-operation Council
CCOP	Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas
CGPRT Centre	Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific
CIRAD	International Co-operation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development
CIRDAP	Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
CITYNET	Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements
ECDC	economic co-operation among developing countries
EPOC	ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FADINAP	Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IFA	International Fertilizer Industry Association
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITC	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
NFIS	Network for Fertilizer Information Systems
PEDP	Pacific Energy Development Programme
POPIN	Population Information System
REDP	Regional Energy Development Programme
RNAM	Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery
RRSP	Regional Remote Sensing Programme
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation
SEATRADC	Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
TCDC	technical co-operation among developing countries
TISNET	Regional Trade Information Network
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCSTD	United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCTC	United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period 14 June 1990 to 10 April 1991, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at its 724th meeting on 10 April 1991.

Chapter I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolutions for action by the Economic and Social Council

Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission

2. At its 724th meeting, the Commission approved the following draft resolutions for submission to the Economic and Social Council for action:

Admission of Macau as an associate member of the Commission

"*The Economic and Social Council,*

"*Noting* that Macau has become an associate member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in accordance with paragraph 5 of the terms of reference of the Commission,

"*Decides* to amend paragraphs 2 and 4 of the terms of reference of the Commission accordingly."

Admission of Kiribati as a full member of the Commission

"*The Economic and Social Council,*

"*Noting* that Kiribati has become a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

"*Decides* to amend paragraphs 3 and 4 of the terms of reference of the Commission accordingly."

Venue of the forty-eighth session of the Commission

3. At the 721st meeting of the Commission on 8 April 1991, the Government of the People's Republic of China offered to hold the forty-eighth session of the Commission at Beijing in 1992. The Government of the People's Republic of China agreed to bear all responsibility for the additional administrative, logistical and financial expenditure involved in holding the session away from the headquarters of the Commission.

4. At the same meeting, the Commission accepted the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China and decided to hold the forty-eighth session at Beijing, subject to the approval of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

47/1.	Seoul Declaration on Regional Cooperation
47/2.	Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific
47/3.	Restructuring the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission
47/4.	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
47/5.	Regional support for the alleviation of poverty
47/6.	Assistance to the countries in the Asian and Pacific region affected by the Persian Gulf crisis
47/7.	Integration of environment and development in Asia and the Pacific
47/8.	Regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems
47/9.	International cooperation on labour migration between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions
47/10.	Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994
47/11.	Interregional cooperation in the area of trade facilitation
47/12.	Regional follow-up of the World Summit for Children
47/13.	International Year of the Family

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

5. During the period under review, meetings of the following subsidiary bodies were convened: the Committees on Population and Social Development; Shipping, Transport and Communications; and Trade. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of these meetings are given in annex III. The activities of the subsidiary bodies during the nine and a half months since the forty-sixth session of the Commission are highlighted below. Lists of publications, meetings and advisory and other services under each programme are provided in the annex to this chapter.

Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment

Food and agriculture

6. The focus of activities continued to be on three main areas in accordance with the Commission's mandate: (a) improvement of agricultural policies, planning and information systems; (b) sustainable production and improvement of supply, distribution, marketing and use of critical farm inputs through the services of the Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP) and the agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific (ARSAP), and (c) integrated rural development, with emphasis on the alleviation of poverty.

7. Workshops, seminars and meetings organized by the secretariat provided opportunities to improve the technical skills and capacities of policy makers in the participating countries. The exchange of experts at the grass-roots and national levels also provided an opportunity to expand experience and knowledge, and was considered by the participants as an effective way to improve their capabilities. Advisory missions undertaken to various members and associate members improved their ability to strengthen national policies and to tackle specific problems in the field.

Environment

8. In pursuance of Commission resolution 267 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988, the activities of the secretariat in the environment sector concentrated on achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development. A major undertaking was the organization of the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok in October 1990. Other events associated with the Conference were the NGO/Media Symposium on Communication for Environment, and the exhibitions of clean technologies and products, CLEANTECH 1990, and of paintings submitted by children for a competition on the theme "Technology and environment". To commemorate the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, 10 October 1990, a photographic exhibition was held, depicting the environment situation and highlighting the destruction caused by natural disasters in the region. The Ministerial-level Conference and the associated events generated interest and awareness in the region, manifested by the high level of participation of the Governments, the active participation of non-governmental organizations and the media and the coverage received in the regional press.

9. The report on the state of the environment 1990, which had been reviewed by various expert groups, was placed before the Ministerial-level Conference, as was a regional strategy on environmentally sound and sustainable development which had been presented to a meeting of government-nominated senior experts in June 1990. That meeting had also evaluated other issue papers submitted to the Ministerial-level Conference. A consultative meeting with non-governmental organizations and the media in preparation for the NGO/Media Symposium was held in September 1990.

10. The Ministerial-level Conference noted with serious concern the deteriorating environmental situation reported in the *State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 1990* and endorsed the main thrust of a regional strategy on environmentally sound and sustainable development, which had been proposed with the objective of reversing the current environmental trends. The comments of the Ministerial-level Conference were incorporated in the regional strategy which was presented to the Meeting of Senior Officials on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific held in February 1991 and finalized for the consideration of the Commission at its forty-seventh session. The Meeting also reached consensus on an input paper depicting the regional views as a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992.

11. Under the ESCAP/UNDP project on managing the environmental dimension of sound and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, activities are being carried out for dissemination and introduction of the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development. These include the development of principles and guidelines, the elaboration of procedures and tools for implementation of the Strategy, and the development of case studies to demonstrate national strategies in sustainable development. The secretariat has also continued its efforts to promote activities relating to environmental awareness through support of the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists. The establishment of an NGO/media working group was recommended by the NGO/Media Symposium to promote cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the media.

12. Under the ESCAP/UNDP project on desertification control, two regional seminars-

cum-study tours were organized by the secretariat: one, hosted by China, was on sand dune stabilization, and the other, held in Viet Nam, provided for exchange of information among scientists, researchers and technical officials on desertification control through the use of reforestation techniques. Activities on the protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems were conducted through the development of coastal management plans. The plan finalized for Tonga was presented at an interdepartmental symposium held at Nuku'alofa in August 1990. The ongoing activities in this area are the finalization of a plan for Pakistan and the initiation of new plans for the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu for gradual implementation. These activities received the serious attention of the Ministerial-level Conference and strong interest was expressed in support of the activities.

13. With respect to the incorporation of environmental considerations in development planning and processes, the secretariat prepared guidelines for pollution control technology for potentially hazardous petrochemical and processing industries. These guidelines were distributed in the region and presented to interested United Nations and other organizations, as well as to the Expert Group Meeting on Environmental Assessment of Industrial and Urban Development in Coastal Areas, held in February 1991. Activities were also conducted for the development and dissemination of methodology and models for environmental assessment of industrial and urban development in coastal areas, which were discussed at a consultative meeting, also held in February 1991. These activities, along with the regional network of economic and environmental policy institutes, soon to be established, are aimed at facilitating the incorporation of environmental considerations in planning processes. The ESCAP/NEPA Training Workshop on Environmentally Sound Planning for Administrators in China was also held in collaboration with the National Environmental Protection Agency of China.

Committee on Development Planning and Statistics

Development issues and policies

14. Follow-up action was taken on several important recommendations made by the Commission with respect to the study on restructuring the developing ESCAP economies in the 1990s. Missions were fielded and consultations held with member Governments on the proposed ESCAP council for regional economic cooperation. Based on those consultations, a report was prepared highlighting the members' views and perspectives on the council, as well as on its proposed work programme and institutional framework. The report has provided a useful input into the ongoing debate on exploring possibilities for taking advantage of existing complementarities in trade, finance, investment and technology transfer in Asia and the Pacific through enhanced regional cooperation, and on the unique role that ESCAP could play in the process. The social dimensions of economic restructuring represent another area to which the secretariat has been giving increased emphasis in view of the high interest this subject has generated at recent sessions of the Commission. Similarly, work continued on the preparation of a study on the regional perspective for the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, while considerable effort has also been put into reviewing and analysing the impact on and implications for economies of the region of recent international developments.

15. Another activity which has gained momentum over the years is the series of seminars and study tours on planning methods, conducted in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The seminars provided a good opportunity for development planners in the region to gain first-hand knowledge of and benefit from the developments that have been taking place in the Soviet Union. With regard to development planning and modelling, a major annual event has been the convening of the Regional Seminar on an Interlinked Country Model System. A large number of macro-economic forecasts for developing countries of Asia and the Pacific were presented at the Seminar, together with an overview of the short- and medium-term outlook for the region as a whole.

16. As in past years, major effort was devoted to the preparation of the annual *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*. Development of infrastructure was the topic chosen for part two of the Survey for 1990. It reviewed the main trends in some key areas relating to both economic and social infrastructure in the developing countries of the region and highlighted the emerging issues and their policy implications.

17. As part of the preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1990, country studies and synthesis papers were prepared, and an expert group meeting and intergovernmental meeting were held. The meetings reviewed the socio-economic situation of the least developed countries of the ESCAP region during the 1980s and made recommendations for accelerating their growth in the 1990s, mainly through their own efforts, but supplemented by more effective and enhanced regional and international cooperation. The studies and proceedings of the meetings were published and distributed at the Conference. Advisory assistance was given to authorities in selected least developed countries, upon request, in the formulation of new development plans and programmes. Activities in support of island developing countries have also made good progress. The assistance has been oriented mainly towards such vital areas as human resources development and institution building.

Statistics

18. The statistics development work of the secretariat achieved a high level of delivery in the review period. A total of 39 advisory missions were undertaken to assist developing countries of the region on various aspects of national accounts, household surveys, energy statistics, database development, population statistics and government computerization. Five technical meetings were convened, covering the revised System of National Accounts, purchasing power parities and issues in managing statistical services in the 1990s. Substantial resources were devoted to statistical training: the New Delhi-based National Household Survey Capability Programme

training programme on household surveys continued in its final year, and a month-long training workshop on social indicators for children and women was again organized jointly with UNICEF. The workshop will most probably become a regular event, and there is interest in the extension of the training programme in New Delhi. The activities of the secretariat on statistical training expanded further with its increased involvement in country courses and in the organization of study visits for country trainees to the secretariat, as well as to other countries on a TCDC basis. It is felt that satisfactory progress has been made towards the objective of strengthening national statistical capabilities.

19. The statistical information services continued to produce the regular statistical publications of the secretariat on schedule. The work on the development of computerized databases is progressing well. Databases relating to *Asia-Pacific in Figures* have been completed and will be distributed to members and associate members on diskettes by the end of March 1991. The database relating to the *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific* will be ready for secretariat use by the end of April 1991. Another database, on statistical indicators, is expected to be finalized by July 1991.

20. Staff vacancies and delays in obtaining extrabudgetary funds continued to hinder the progress in the work on government computerization. While approval for funding is awaited for a project on improving government information systems in the Pacific island countries, another project proposal for Asia is being formulated.

Committee on Industry, Technology and Human Settlements

Human settlements

21. To assist members and associate members in planning and managing the emerging urban settlements pattern in a more effective way, the programme has pursued a two-pronged approach, assisting countries in adopting micro-level policies for tackling urgent problems, such as the urban environment, shelter, infrastructure and the provision of services, and macro-level policies to manage the process of urbanization more effectively and to build capacity at the national, local and grass-roots levels for better planning and management of urban areas. The initiatives taken so far cover a wide range of issues, including various aspects of urban management, subnational or regional planning, and assistance in low-income shelter provision techniques, as well as in formulating and implementing shelter policies, with emphasis on urban shelter problems.

22. As public participation is considered a vital element in the development of adequate shelter for low-income households, attention was given to promoting regional cooperation among non-governmental organizations involved in shelter development and housing finance, through the organization of various exchange programmes among non-governmental and community-based organizations. Other activities focused on human resources development at the national, local and grass-roots levels. A special effort was made to ascertain the priority needs of small island countries of the Pacific with respect to shelter and settlements.

23. To assist in poverty alleviation in the rural areas, additional chapters were added to the *Guidelines for Rural Centre Planning*, covering areas such as off-farm employment generation in rural areas, and an organizational framework for the development of rural centres and settlements.

24. Research in the field of housing finance led to the preparation of guidelines on community-based housing finance and innovative credit systems for low-income households. These guidelines, when implemented, are expected to strengthen the existing local institutions involved in housing finance, or assist in promoting new ones, so that adequate help is given to non-governmental and community-based organizations for the setting up of innovative community-based saving and credit systems. Technical co-operation and research also yielded results in the field of low-income shelter development. Guidelines were developed for the promotion of building-component industries to assist in increasing low-income housing production on a self-help basis.

25. A major step towards increasing awareness on low-income shelter and settlements was taken in the organization of a seminar at Seoul at which a meeting of shelter/settlements experts with media representatives was convened to discuss the various issues and approaches in shelter and settlements development and the ways and means by which the media could contribute to awareness creation in the region.

26. ESCAP, with financial support from UNDP, continued its efforts to assist members of the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET) in strengthening their capabilities in urban management and low-income settlements improvement and development. One of the major activities under CITYNET was a project on urban environment. The ongoing project aims at studying the urban environment conditions in five metropolises of the region, as well as exploring the possibility of incorporating community initiatives and informal sector activities in the formal urban environment management process of the cities. Guidelines on the above subject will be prepared and presented to a seminar on urban environment for city executives and national-level policy makers, during the Second CITYNET Congress, to be held at Kuala Lumpur in September 1991. The French cities of Lyon and Nancy, associate members of CITYNET, are closely involved in the implementation of the project.

27. The Commission, concerned with the rapid rate of urbanization in the region and aware of the holistic approach needed to manage it, adopted resolution 46/2 on 13 June 1990 on urbanization strategies in the ESCAP region - Towards environmentally sound and sustainable development and management of urban areas. In that resolution, the secretariat was requested to prepare a report on the state of urbanization in the region, to develop a regional plan of action to address the problems presented by rapid urban growth, and also to prepare a framework for the formulation of national action plans. The Commission also urged all members and associate members to formulate and implement national strategies for urbanization, and urban development planning and management, with a view to managing population growth in major cities

and encouraging the development of secondary cities and rural centres, with the objective of achieving more even population distribution. The Commission also requested the secretariat to organize a regional conference on urbanization strategies in the ESCAP region in 1992 which would consider the regional action plan and develop a framework for the formulation of national action plans.

Industrial development

28. An important aspect of economic reform includes various measures aimed at industrial restructuring and rapid expansion of the manufacturing sector. While notable progress has been made in this respect by the East Asian countries and the members of ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations), there are several economies with relatively low levels of industrial development. Furthermore, some of the larger economies which have been attempting structural transformation are constrained by inadequate policy, infrastructure and other necessary support services.

29. In view of the above, the Commission, at its forty-sixth session, endorsed the choice of "Industrial restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, in particular with a view to strengthening regional co-operation" as the theme topic for its forty-seventh session and directed the secretariat to prepare a study on the subject. The study and a plan of action for implementation at the regional level were presented to the Commission for consideration at its forty-seventh session. Other notable activities in the field of industrial development included the preparation of three subregional and several country studies on the promotion of international competitiveness in industry for the Asian and Pacific region, and the holding of two subregional workshops to enhance the usefulness of the studies, as well as to identify issues of national and regional importance for the preparation of a comprehensive regional study.

30. With respect to the least developed countries of the region, the secretariat assisted the Government of Nepal in convening an industrial promotion meeting between entrepreneurs of Nepal and Germany, during which a total of 36 separate discussions were held among the prospective collaborators. Several publications covering small-scale industries, industrial restructuring, global economic development and its relation to industrial development, were prepared and published. In the area of human resources development, plans have been initiated for an activity to enable planners from the Asian and Pacific region to learn from the successful experience of Japan and the Republic of Korea. A regional study on investment promotion and the enhancement of the role of the private sector is being prepared. As directed by the Commission at its forty-sixth session, the secretariat began preparations for holding the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, scheduled to be held early in 1992.

Science and technology

31. The programme covered a range of important subjects and activities aimed at establishing and strengthening institutional infrastructure for science and technology, strengthening the technological capabilities of members and associate members of ESCAP and monitoring major breakthroughs in science and technology. The outputs were designed to assist developing countries of the ESCAP region in building and strengthening endogenous capabilities for the selection, acquisition, development, adaptation and utilization of technology.

32. To strengthen the institutional infrastructure for science and technology, exchange study visits in science and technology and policy and expert group meetings on the development of consultancy services were organized. These activities not only enabled senior officials to learn from each others' experience, but also opened up opportunities for further cooperation among countries of the region. Electricity conservation in the commercial and domestic subsectors has been promoted as part of the UNDP/ESCAP Regional Energy Development Programme (REDP), through training activities and the development and reinforcement of institutional arrangements and programmes for conserving electricity through efficient utilization. The upgrading of technology for the rehabilitation of the small-scale foundry industry has been facilitated through a regional survey of the present status of the industry and the tendering of remedial action required for improving operational efficiency.

33. To strengthen the technological capabilities of members and associate members of ESCAP. technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) has been promoted for the enhancement of national and regional institutions in the field of engineering design, consultancy services, and other activities at the national level. Transfer and diffusion of technology have been promoted through the provision of up-to-date information on marketable technologies available in the region. Under the UNDP/ESCAP Pacific Energy Development Programme (PEDP) a number of courses have been conducted to provide photovoltaic training, sophisticated training kits and materials to Pacific islanders who are instructors at existing technical training institutions so as to facilitate technical progress and employment generation in the rural sector. Moreover, advisory services have been given to strengthen the regional institutional infrastructure in standardization through the use of existing facilities as common service facilities.

34. In monitoring major breakthroughs in science and technology, the implications of powder metallurgy and biotechnology have been assessed to facilitate their acquisition and absorption.

35. At meetings, workshops and field missions, member countries have generally welcomed such efforts at technological capability-building and called for related and interlinked follow-up activities. The assessment undertaken so far by the secretariat of the impact of the programme is, however, incomplete in the sense that a more extensive in-depth examination will be called for after a longer period of time has elapsed, given that technological capability-building activities usually have long gestation periods. In this regard, to achieve better, more effective and complete analytical assessment in the future, appropriate policy decisions should be taken to set aside adequate resources for regular, mandatory in-depth programme evaluation activities at

the national level in specified periods, with target groups clearly identified.

Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

Marine affairs

36. The marine affairs programme followed a multidisciplinary approach encompassing all resources and uses of the ocean in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/26 of 20 November 1989 on the law of the sea. The secretariat continued to coordinate activities related to strengthening the capabilities of members and associate members in the assessment, development and management of non-living ocean resources within their national jurisdiction. Training was provided in appraisal of the geology, occurrence, development and management of marine mineral resources, including those in nearshore and coastal zone areas.

37. The secretariat continued to provide technical backstopping to regional projects of the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP) and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC).

38. In order to promote the establishment of a new ocean regime within the framework of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the secretariat assisted members and associate members in the formulation of an integrated and multisectoral marine policy. It published volume 1, *Thailand and the Law of the Sea* and volume 2, *Indonesia and the Law of the Sea* of a monograph. It is expected that volumes on other member countries in the ESCAP region will be published in the future.

Natural resources

39. The secretariat continued to implement assessment activities with the compilation and publication of mineral resources thematic maps of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, as well as studies of known mineral deposits and occurrences in several other member countries. The promotion of subregional cooperation continued with the provision of technical support to the Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre (SEATRADC). Other activities were the provision of group training and advisory services with the main objective of strengthening geological/exploration agencies; the formulation of projects and policies under the regional mineral resources development programme; and the appraisal of geology for planning purposes in relation to urban development.

40. The secretariat conducted training programmes and workshops in epithermal gold mineralization in the region, environmental geology for sustained development and geology for land-use planning. Consultancy services were also provided in the formulation of mineral development strategies to attract foreign investment and in the assessment of particular mineral commodities.

41. Activities under the regional project on mineral resources development in the least developed countries commenced with training programmes on construction materials, dimension (facing) stone and land evaluation. Consultancy services were provided on the development of industrial minerals and the formulation of national mineral development plans.

42. The regional project on trade in mineral commodities was also initiated with the drafting of the requisite terms of reference for consultants and preparation of the two-year (1991-1992) work programme.

43. Members and associate members of ESCAP were assisted in the preparation of national master water plans through the publication and promotion of guidelines for the preparation of such plans. A workshop on urban flood loss prevention organized by the secretariat provided guidance to some major cities of the region affected by flooding. Members of the secretariat participated in the annual session of the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin. The dissemination of water resources publications and the fostering of TCDC provided further support to members and associate members in water development.

44. The activities of the secretariat in cartography and remote sensing continued to focus on activities for technology transfer based on TCDC arrangements. Group training, long-term fellowships, information exchange and pilot projects were the major elements of the Regional Remote Sensing Programme (RRSP). RRSP organized six regional meetings, three training activities and three pilot projects during the review period. In addition, it co-sponsored the Eleventh Asian Conference on Remote Sensing, which is the largest forum of remote sensing scientists and specialists in the region. The Governments of China and India continued to provide long-term fellowships to trainees from the region sponsored by RRSP. Under the publication programme of RRSP four issues of the *Remote Sensing Newsletter*, two issues of the *Asian Pacific Remote Sensing Journal*, a supplement to the *Register of Remote Sensing Projects in the ESCAP Region*, a supplement to the *Regional Remote Sensing Bibliography* and the proceedings and reports of various meetings were published and distributed.

45. In addition to financial support from UNDP, RRSP was also able to draw donor support from other sources. The Government of Australia provided a grant for the installation of a microcomputer-based image-processing system for in-house training activities, particularly for the least developed countries. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) provided technical assistance for conducting a study on the economics of remote sensing applications to natural resources and environment development projects in Asia and the Pacific. The study was completed under the management of RRSP. The European Space Agency co-sponsored one of the RRSP activities in 1990.

Energy

46. The oil price increase precipitated by the Persian Gulf crisis became a factor of concern for the economies of the region during the period under review. ESCAP established a team to study its impact

on developing countries and presented a paper on the subject at the Workshop for Forum Island Energy Ministers and Senior Officials on the Middle East Oil Situation and Emergency Management. The impact was found to be negative, causing considerable decreases in the foreign exchange holdings of many countries.

47. The energy programme continued to progress, including implementation of the UNDP/ESCAP Regional Energy Development Programme (REDP) and Pacific Energy Development Programme (PEDP). The six regional energy working groups mandated by the Commission at its forty-fifth session have been established and the first meeting of the Regional TCDC Working Group on Rural Energy Planning and Development took place in November 1990 in conjunction with the REDP activity, Executive Seminar and Study Tour on Rural Energy Planning and Development, held in China and Thailand. The Working Group on Wind Energy Technology was formed in December 1990. The working groups on natural gas development and on energy conservation held their first meetings in February and March 1991 respectively. The other working groups will hold their first meetings in the near future.

48. In response to concern over the climatic effects of increased fossil fuel burning, a seminar on that subject and its implications for energy policy in the Asian and Pacific region was held at Tokyo in December 1990.

49. At least four additional countries were included in sectoral energy demand studies conducted within the framework of REDP activity P-1 supported by the Government of France. A training seminar was held in June 1990 and a series of technical, advisory and supervisory missions was conducted during the period September 1990-March 1991. A training course on the reduction of transmission and distribution losses was hosted by the Government of Malaysia at Kuala Lumpur in October-November 1990.

Committee on Population and Social Development

Population

50. The long-term objectives of the programme are to promote an integrated approach in population planning within the overall framework of the social and economic development of the region; to assist in the promotion of cooperation and exchange of experience among ESCAP members and associate members in policy and programme formulation and implementation; and to strengthen the capability of Governments to acquire, analyse, disseminate and utilize population data and information in support of policy formulation and programme implementation.

51. The secretariat initiated country studies on the consequences of population change, providing planners, policy makers and researchers in countries of the region with the broad-based knowledge to identify specific approaches to integrated policy formulation on population and development strategies. Work was undertaken towards the development of policies to generate suitable employment opportunities and improve rural human resources development to reduce urban migration trends and to promote balanced population distribution among rural areas, towns and cities. Governments of countries in the region were provided with technical assistance in analysing urbanization trends in their countries in relation to socio-economic development policies, the impact of urbanization and the role of women.

52. Substantive results were achieved in influencing ESCAP members and associate members to formulate population policies and to implement family planning programmes. Research was undertaken on interaction between clients and grass-roots family planning personnel, the knowledge and attitudes of family planning workers about contraceptives, the impact and efficiency of family planning programmes, the accessibility of contraceptive methods and integrated approaches to and the promotion of community participation in family planning programmes.

53. Advisory services, technical backstopping, training courses and workshops, information services and grants were among the information activities enabling national information centres in the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network (Asia-Pacific POPIN) to process and disseminate data and information more efficiently to target audiences in support of population policy formulation and programme implementation. An active publications programme produced periodicals to help in meeting the population information needs of those audiences in the region.

Social development

54. In its subprogramme on popular participation, the secretariat contributed to national efforts to promote policies and programmes to stimulate greater participation of the entire population in the development process, with special emphasis on vulnerable groups such as women, youth, disabled persons and the elderly. The secretariat's activities relating to women in development promoted awareness in the region of women's *de jure* and *de facto* legal status as well as the need for equal rights legislation and its implementation. In addition, the secretariat contributed to the strengthening of national capabilities for integrating women's concerns into development planning. A series of activities aimed at strengthening national, subregional and regional women's information systems was undertaken through the organization of a training workshop, the provision of advisory services and the publication of newsletters.

55. With respect to youth in development, the secretariat contributed to the strengthening of national capabilities for addressing youth problems and concerns. Meetings were convened on critical youth issues in the region, including human resources development policies and programmes pertaining to youth, and training of trainers in youth work. Advisory services were rendered to assist Governments in promoting the participation of youth in development. Information publications, including newsletters, directories and monographs, were issued to increase the understanding of youth issues and strengthen communication channels between government agencies and non-governmental organizations dealing with youth concerns in the region.

56. In the field of disabled persons in development, the secretariat contributed to the promotion of the

equalization of opportunities for disabled persons through the organization of workshops and the preparation and dissemination of policy documents. In addition, to facilitate cooperation among developing countries with regard to disability concerns, the secretariat undertook a survey of national focal points on disability. With respect to elderly persons in development, the secretariat contributed to generating awareness of the importance of comprehensive and forward-looking policies for old age through the preparation and dissemination of studies.

57. The secretariat continued to contribute to national efforts to promote and strengthen the social component of development policies and programmes, including those relating to the planning and delivery of social services and to the strengthening of the partnership between government agencies and non-governmental organizations. With specific reference to social development policy and planning, the secretariat undertook a variety of activities to promote and strengthen integrated social development planning. Among various activities, it formulated a set of guidelines for action in support of education for all in the ESCAP region. The secretariat implemented the second phase of work towards the formulation of a regional social development strategy, including the preparation of a series of country studies and a regional overview of alternative social development policy and planning scenarios towards the year 2000 and beyond. In addition, advisory services were provided in the areas of social development planning and training and crime prevention and criminal justice. The secretariat also assisted Governments in policy analysis of emerging social development issues, including social aspects of rural development. Activities to improve social development information systems in the region included the preparation and dissemination of newsletters on selected issues in social development.

58. In the area of health and development, the secretariat completed a project on drug abuse rehabilitation in Asia and the Pacific, which developed recommendations for the strengthening of drug abuse rehabilitation programmes. Another project, on drug abuse prevention programme development, assisted Governments through a series of national workshops. In addition, the secretariat initiated implementation of a project on integrated community-based approaches to drug abuse demand reduction.

59. With respect to human resources development, the secretariat embarked on a major UNDP-funded project on assistance towards the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP region. The ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development was established to promote the exchange within the region of relevant experience, information and technical expertise on national approaches and activities for improved human resources development policy-making and planning. The secretariat also initiated work on the second phase of a project which involved the conduct of a survey of the quality of life in Asia and the Pacific, as mandated in Commission resolution 274 (XLIV). In addition, the secretariat implemented a project to select, and honour with an award, an outstanding individual or organization doing innovative research in the field of human resources development in the region.

Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications

Transport I (Transport and communications)

60. Activities in the sixth year of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 were implemented to achieve the objectives of the Decade. A major undertaking was the mid-term review of the Decade as mandated by the Commission. The review confirmed that the original objectives of the Decade remained fully valid. However, there was a need to adjust the time-frame of the second half of the Decade to cover the years 1992-1996 to coincide with the medium-term plan, 1992-1997 and to formulate a new regional action programme in collaboration with other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations concerned with the development of transport and communications in the region, in order to intensify the impact of the Decade programmes.

61. Continued efforts were made to promote human resources development in the development of rural roads and railways, through the strengthening of training and research capabilities.

62. In cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), a joint plan of action in telecommunications for the period 1992-1996 was developed based on the findings and recommendations of the ESCAP *Study on Telecommunication Development in the ESCAP Region*. It provides for the collaborative efforts of the three organizations, ITU, APT and ESCAP, as well as other organizations concerned, towards the development of the telecommunication sector of the region.

63. In relation to integrated transport planning, a study was undertaken to identify major problems of urban transport in the region. A joint approach was developed by the secretariat, the World Bank and ADB to assist both infrastructural development and training needs in the area of transport since urban transport congestion in the major cities of the region has been identified as a prime factor in urban environmental degradation.

Transport II (Shipping, ports and inland waterways)

64. Activities in the sixth year of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 were implemented in relation to shipping, ports and inland waterways to achieve the objectives of the Decade. The mid-term review of the Decade was undertaken jointly with the Transport I programme.

65. The Transport II programme addressed three major areas: human resources development, model development and transfer of technology. Priority was accorded to TCDC activities, particularly in human resources development and transfer of technology.

66. Workshops on the training of trainers were undertaken to develop self-reliance in the sectors of ports, inland waterways and freight forwarding. A series of video training programmes and a

comprehensive manual were developed as teaching aids to assist future trainers in conducting their own training workshops. The organization of workshops on multimodal transport included the human resources development component to train selected national experts to become indigenous trainers on this subject and to conduct future training themselves.

67. Work on the development of a maritime legal framework continued through the organization of meetings to update the *Guide-lines for Maritime Legislation* and to develop new guidelines for port-related legislation and maritime labour legislation.

68. Transfer of technology was further achieved in the maritime and railway fields through the development of computer models that have been validated and implemented for planning purposes in a number of countries of the region.

Committee on Trade

International trade and development finance

69. In the implementation of the programme of work and priorities, special attention was given to trade expansion, human resources development, the needs of the least developed countries and women's concerns.

70. Several trade expansion activities were undertaken in response to current developments in the international trading system, including workshops and seminars on the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, the single European market, and studies on the role of the service sector in the economies of developing countries. Regional projects were developed and launched, including studying the effect of graduation from the generalized system of preferences (GSP) scheme on major exporting countries of the region; development of a framework for capitalizing on the trade prospects and business opportunities emerging in the region in the 1990s; modalities and activities for interregional cooperation in trade facilitation; and economic restructuring and international trade in mineral commodities. The Second Round of Negotiations under the Bangkok Agreement was concluded successfully, leading to expansion of its coverage in terms of both items and membership.

71. Efforts by developing countries to enhance trade in raw materials and commodities were supported by technical information and materials provided in the formulation and application of appropriate strategies and policies in selected commodities. In view of the new technological developments in the conduct of international trade, technical workshops and training in trade facilitation aimed at strengthening the capabilities of developing countries in this area were held. The secretariat continued to support the efforts of developing countries in export promotion through technical assistance, training, marketing guidebooks and activities under the Regional Trade Information Network (TISNET).

Tourism

72. In the area of tourism, studies providing comprehensive information on the economic, social and environmental impact of tourism were undertaken to enable developing countries to formulate programmes and policies on tourism with a better understanding of their implications.

Transnational corporations

73. The ESCAP/UNCTC Joint Unit on Transnational Corporations published the *Asia-Pacific TNC Review*, No. 7, 1990. The *Review* contains papers on foreign direct investment in selected countries of the ESCAP region. The papers provide data and policy recommendations which are useful to policy makers involved in formulating foreign investment policy in the developing countries of the ESCAP region.

74. To enhance understanding of the activities of transnational corporations in the region, the Joint Unit continued to broaden its data-collecting activity and to update the database for the forthcoming *Directory of International Investment and Production* to be published by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC).

75. Two research reports were completed. The first, "ESCAP least developed countries and transnational corporations", studies the factors that influence the location of transnational corporations and suggests policy measures which the least developed countries could adopt to attract more foreign direct investment. The second study, "Foreign direct investment in Bangladesh", analyses the industrial incentives policy in Bangladesh, discusses the impact of foreign direct investment on the Bangladesh economy, and suggests policy recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of transnational corporations in promoting the economy of Bangladesh.

76. In addition to rendering support for advisory services provided by UNCTC, the Joint Unit provided advisory services to China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Republic of Korea.

B. Other activities

77. In addition to the work of its legislative committees, the secretariat performed the following promotional and supportive activities of a substantive nature.

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

78. In line with the directive of the Commission at its forty-sixth session, the secretariat continued efforts to expand its support to TCDC and ECDC activities compatible with the needs of the countries concerned, jointly with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. With the generous support of the Governments of China, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Sweden to the ESCAP-TCDC supplementary fund, the secretariat was able to implement 30 operational TCDC activities in various fields through financing the international cost component of such activities. There was an increasing number of bilateral TCDC exchanges between China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the

Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand in the field of science and technology and water resources development. Ten field study visits were undertaken on a TCDC basis in specific areas of interest to members and associate members. These included visits to Bangladesh, on the Grameen Bank operation; to China, on the use of remote sensing for flood plain mapping; to India, on dairy development; to the Republic of Korea on macro-policy analysis for small and medium-sized enterprise development; and to Thailand, on artificial rain making. TCDC supplementary support was provided to selected countries to participate in workshops and expert group meetings organized in six countries in the fields of acid rain, training of trainers in rural and urban youth work, export marketing for women executives, and engineering design and consultancy services.

79. Operational TCDC activities supported by the ESCAP-TCDC supplementary funds resulted in strengthened cooperation between the national TCDC focal points and ESCAP ECDC-TCDC services. In addition they also enhanced cooperation at the technical level among members and associate members of ESCAP, thereby contributing to the successful development of crucial sectors of the national economies and better trained manpower capable of conducting training programmes at the national level.

Food and agriculture

80. Four major activities were conducted, three hosted by Thailand and one by India. The beneficiary countries were China, Bangladesh and Viet Nam. The exchange of experts and grass-roots rural development cadres has proved to be a highly useful activity with a positive impact on the process of policy-making in developing countries of the region.

Population

81. TCDC activities were expanded to include training workshops and arrangements for the exchange of personnel among national population information centres.

Natural resources

82. In the field of TCDC activities, the UNDP/ESCAP Regional Remote Sensing Programme initiated three pilot projects and one training activity. Most of the RRSP activities were hosted by participating countries which contributed substantially from their own resources under TCDC collaboration. RRSP also provided technical support to the organization of the Regional Seminar on Remote Sensing Applications for Geotectonic Mapping and Mineral Exploration held in the USSR.

83. Progress reports on the activities of the following regional projects, institutions and intergovernmental bodies were submitted to the Commission in separate documents:

> Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
>
> Asian and Pacific Development Centre
>
> Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas
>
> Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin
>
> Pacific Energy Development Programme
>
> Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific
>
> Regional Energy Development Programme
>
> Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery
>
> Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
>
> Typhoon Committee

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

84. With regard to food, agriculture and rural development, relations with the concerned specialized agencies were strengthened. FADINAP, as a joint project of ESCAP, FAO and UNIDO, continued to make substantial contributions to the strengthening of both the fertilizer sector and fertilizer-related policies in the region. The cooperation among the United Nations agencies which are members of the United Nations Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP, UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNIFEM, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO) has continued in the implementation of the integrated programme on rural development.

85. Activities under development issues and policies continued to be implemented with the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Close cooperation was maintained with that Department in preparing the annual *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific.*

86. In the field of the environment, the secretariat maintained close contact and cooperation with other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and multilateral funding organizations, including UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, the World Bank, UNIDO and ADB, as well as subregional organizations on the environment. An inter-agency group met during the meeting of the Senior Officials on Environment and Development in February 1991, and recommended a mechanism for promoting coordination among various United Nations bodies and agencies, as well as other multilateral and bilateral funding agencies, to promote environmental and developmental activities under the leadership of ESCAP. Furthermore, ESCAP and UNEP signed a memorandum of understanding for collaboration in areas of mutual concern, through which projects and areas of cooperation were identified for implementation through ESCAP.

87. With regard to human settlements, the secretariat participated in two subregional policy seminars on global strategy for shelter to the year 2000 organized by UNCHS (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)). The first seminar was held in Bali in May 1990 for East Asian countries and was organized in cooperation with the Government of Indonesia; the second seminar was held at Colombo in August 1990 for South Asian countries in cooperation with the Government of Sri Lanka.

88. In connection with the implementation of Commission resolution 46/2 on urbanization strategies in the ESCAP region, contacts were established with UNCHS, UNDP and the World Bank. In the context of the work relating to CITYNET, ESCAP maintained close cooperation with the urban management programme funded by UNDP and executed by UNCHS and the World Bank.

89. In the area of industrial development, close cooperation continued with UNIDO through jointly organized studies, meetings and seminars. Detailed modalities for future cooperation had been worked out at the First ESCAP/UNIDO Joint Programme Development Meeting held in December 1989. Cooperation was maintained with UNCTC in relation to projects and advisory services on investment promotion activities.

90. In the international trade and tourism sector, ESCAP collaborated with UNCTAD, GATT and the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) in conducting training programmes to promote trade expansion and trade facilitation. In addition, the secretariat continued to cooperate with the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT (ITC) in the implementation of activities for trade promotion, including training and trade information.

91. With regard to raw materials and commodities, the secretariat maintained close working relations in areas of mutual concern and interest with UNCTAD, FAO, UNIDO, ITC, the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APPC), the International Jute Organization (IJO), the International Natural Rubber Organization (INRO), the International Pepper Community (IPC), the International Silk Association (ISA) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

92. In the field of tourism, the secretariat continued to cooperate with ILO, WTO and the Pacific Asia Travel Association.

93. In the natural resources programme, particularly in the field of mineral resources development, the secretariat cooperated with UNDP in the execution of programmes on regional training in mineral resources development, with emphasis on the needs of the least developed countries, economic restructuring and international trade in the mineral commodities sector; the UNESCO International Geological Correlation Programme and the International Union of Geological Sciences, in the compilation of geological and thematic maps and in stratigraphic correlation between sedimentary basins of the region; UNDP, in technical reviews and monitoring of activities of the UNDP-funded regional mineral resources development projects of SEATRADC, CCOP and SOPAC; the United Nations Departments of Technical Co-operation for Development and of International Economic and Social Affairs, on mineral resources exploration and development programmes in the region; and the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration.

94. In the area of water resources development, coordination with various United Nations agencies was carried out through the semi-annual meeting of the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific, in which the programmes of different agencies and ESCAP were reviewed in order to avoid duplication and achieve better coordination.

95. With regard to remote sensing, the secretariat, through RRSP, assisted the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development in the execution of a country project, and in arranging a study fellowship and a technical study tour for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and FAO were invited to participate in the Meeting of the Directors of the National Remote Sensing Centres/Programmes in the ESCAP Region and the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the ESCAP/UNDP Regional Remote Sensing Programme.

96. With respect to the marine affairs programme, the secretariat coordinated its activities in the field of the law of the sea with the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea. Close cooperation was maintained with CCOP and SOPAC in activities dealing with offshore prospecting for mineral resources.

97. Regarding the energy programme, close cooperation was maintained with UNDP, FAO, the World Bank and UNIDO concerning PEDP and REDP. The secretariat cooperated with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in the area of new and renewable sources of energy. Working relations were maintained with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the area of energy planning and financing of nuclear power projects.

98. Almost all activities of the population programme were carried out with extrabudgetary support from UNFPA. The secretariat also cooperates with the Population Division of the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. In coordinating Asia-Pacific POPIN, it collaborated closely with global POPIN at United Nations Headquarters. It is also a member of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections. Inter-agency cooperation was also maintained with related population programmes of ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO, and regional offices of the United Nations specialized agencies located in Bangkok.

99. Numerous contacts with other United Nations bodies have been maintained in the field of science and technology for development. ESCAP was represented at the tenth session of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development organized by the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), held at Zhuhai, China. In the TCDC workshop on the strengthening and development of engineering design and consultancy services for the promotion of ECDC/TCDC, representatives of the World Bank and ITC participated. Follow-up activities of this workshop are envisaged in collaboration with ITC. Inputs were provided in response to requests from UNCSTD and UNCTAD in the areas of endogenous capacity-building and technology transfer. Informal consultations were held with representatives of UNESCO bodies on joint projects in the field of human resources development and other areas of mutual interest.

100. In the field of statistics, the secretariat maintained close working relations with the United Nations Statistical Office, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO, the World Bank and ADB. A workshop on social indicators for children and women was organized jointly with UNICEF and UNIFEM, ILO and UNESCO provided resource persons. Cooperation was also maintained with intergovernmental organizations, such as the South Pacific Commission, and various technical assistance agencies outside the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and professional and academic institutions.

101. With respect to transport and communications, close cooperation was maintained with UNDP, UNCTAD, ILO, ICAO, the World Bank, IMO, ITU, ADB, APT, APPU (Asian-Pacific Parliamentary Union), COTAC (Committee on Transportation and Communications of the ASEAN Economics Ministers) and the South Pacific Forum, all of which participated in the mid-term review of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994. An inter-agency meeting attended by UNDP, UNCTAD, ILO, ICAO, the World Bank, ITU, APT, APPU and COTAC was held in December 1990 and a plan of action was agreed upon to prepare a regional action programme for phase II of the Decade, 1992-1996. The secretariat developed with ITU and APT a joint plan of action in telecommunications for the period 1992-1996 and with the World Bank and ADB a joint approach to assist both infrastructural development and training in urban transport. Close contact was maintained with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea, UNCTAD, ILO, IMO and the South Pacific Forum in the implementation of UNDP-funded maritime and port legislation projects and with UNCTAD, ADB, COTAC and the South Pacific Forum in the implementation of UNDP-funded port development projects.

102. In the field of social development, close contact and cooperation were maintained with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, especially through two UNDP-funded projects on the formulation of a regional social development strategy and on assistance towards the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region. In the areas of social development planning, women, youth, disabled persons, the elderly and drug abuse control, close cooperation and coordination continued with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Office at Vienna, UNAFEI (United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders), UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNIFEM, UNFDAC, UNFPA, INSTRAW, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO. Information exchange with other regional commissions on issues relating to women, disabled persons and drug abuse control took place on a regular basis. Inter-agency consultations were held to promote inter-agency coordination and cooperation with respect to youth and a regional programme of action in support of education for all.

Annex

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES

A. List of publications

Food and agriculture

Agricultural Information Development Bulletin (quarterly), vol. 12, Nos. 3 and 4; vol. 13, No. 1

Agro-chemicals News in Brief (quarterly), vol XIII, Nos. 3 and 4, 1990; vol. XIV, No. 1, 1991, and two special issues, November and December 1990

ARSAP/CIRAD Regional Agro-pesticide Index, vol. I, *Asia*, 1991 edition (revised) (ST/ESCAP/931)

Calendar of Meetings on Agro-chemicals (quarterly), vol. 9, Nos. 3 and 4, 1990; vol. 10, Nos. 1 and 2, 1991

Directory of Sources of Fertilizer-related Information with special reference to Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/979)

FADINAP Fertilizer Trade Information Monthly Bulletin, (monthly), June 1990 to March 1991

Legislation Needed to Minimize Environmental Problems in Fertilizer Marketing and Use (ST/ESCAP/910)

Participatory Rural Development in Selected Countries (ST/ESCAP/889)

RISS, Regional Information Support Service (monthly), vol. 14, Nos. 6-12, 1990; vol. 15, Nos. 1-3, 1991

Supply, Marketing, Distribution and Use of Fertilizer in Thailand (ST/ESCAP/900)

Supply, Marketing, Distribution and Use of Fertilizer in Viet Nam (ST/ESCAP/911)

"FADINAP" (brochure)

"Interagency programme on integrated rural development" (brochure)

Environment

Environmental Management Plan for the Kingdom of Tonga (ST/ESCAP/887)

ESCAP Environment News (quarterly), vol. 8, Nos. 1-3

Greening Development: Report of ESCAP/UNDP Meeting of Eminent Persons on Greening the Development Process, Bangkok, 9-11 October 1989 (ST/ESCAP/850)

Guidelines for the Mitigation of Pollution of Coastal Waters from Hazardous Industrial Wastes, vol. I, *Tantalum Industry*; vol. II, *VCM-PVC Industry*; vol. III, *PTA-DMT-Polyester Industry*; vol. IV, *Styrene and ABS Industry*; vol. V, *Titanium Dioxide Industry*; vol. VI, *Hydrogen Peroxide Industry* (ST/ESCAP/860)

State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 1990 (ST/ESCAP/917)

Waterlogging and Salinity Control in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/855)

"Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific" (brochure)

Development issues and policies

Development Papers, No. 8, *Institutional Relations in Development* (ST/ESCAP/833); No. 9, *Econometric Modelling and Forecasting in Asia* (ST/ESCAP/838)

Development Performance of the Least Developed Countries of Asia and the Pacific Region in the 1980s and their Prospects for the Decade Ahead (ST/ESCAP/898)

Economic and Social Survey for Asia and the Pacific 1990 (ST/ESCAP/949)

Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, vol. XXXIX, No. 2, December 1988 (ST/ESCAP/813) and vol. XL, No. 1/2, June/December 1989 (ST/ESCAP/814)

Least Developed Countries of Asia and the Pacific Region: Development Performance and Prospects, vol. I (ST/ESCAP/936); vol. II (ST/ESCAP/937)

Statistics

Asia-Pacific in Figures, fifth edition (ST/ESCAP/966)

Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1984-1988 (ST/ESCAP/942)

Sample Surveys in the ESCAP Region, twenty-fifth report, 1987 (ST/ESCAP/946)

Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific: vol. XX, No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/896); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/925); No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/953)

Statistical Newsletter, Nos. 77-80

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1990 (ST/ESCAP/943)

Human settlements

Case Studies on Metropolitan Fringe Development with Focus on Informal Subdivisions (ST/ESCAP/593)

CITYNET Report of the Senior-level Seminar on Low-income Housing Policy (ST/ESCAP/913)

Report of the Workshop on Local Housing Programmes with Focus on the Partnership between City Authorities and People (ST/ESCAP/861)

Industrial development

Global Economic Development since 1985 and its Impulses for Industrial Restructuring in East Asia: Role of Japan (ST/ESCAP/961)

Industrial Development News for Asia and the Pacific, No. 18/19 (ST/ESCAP/927)

Industrial Policy in the Republic of Korea and Implications for the Developing Economies of Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/962)

Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, in particular with a view to Strengthening Regional Co-operation (ST/ESCAP/960)

Proceedings of the Regional Seminar on Transfer of Technology for Small and Medium Industries (ST/ESCAP/908)

Promoting International Competitiveness and Efficient Resource Utilization: India (ST/ESCAP/968); *Malaysia* (ST/ESCAP/955); *Nepal* (ST/ESCAP/937); *The Philippines* (ST/ESCAP/940); *Republic of Korea* (ST/ESCAP/956); *Pakistan* (ST/ESCAP/970)

Regional Study on Transfer of Technology for Small and Medium Industries (ST/ESCAP/915)

Transfer of Technology for Entrepreneurial Development in Bangladesh (ST/ESCAP/878)

Science and technology

Development and Popularization of Appropriate Industrial Technology for Food Storage and Processing in the Pacific Island Countries - Proceedings and Selected Papers of the Seminar, Port Vila, Vanuatu, 23-27 April 1990 (ST/ESCAP/935)

Report on the Technological Rehabilitation of Small-scale Foundries in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/939)

Study on Strategic Considerations in the Strengthening of Research and Development Organization and Management (ST/ESCAP/875)

Technical, Economic and Social Aspects of Powder Metallurgy and its Application in Developing Asian Countries (ST/ESCAP/866)

Natural resources

Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing Journal, vol. 3, Nos. 1 and 2

Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region, vol. 7, *Lao People's Democratic Republic* (ST/ESCAP/929)

Confluence, No. 15, 1990

Manual and Guidelines for Comprehensive Flood Loss Prevention and Management (ST/ESCAP/933)

Quaternary of Asia and the Pacific, Newsletter 2, January 1991

Regional Remote Sensing Bibliography, Supplement to the first edition (ST/ESCAP/947)

Remote Sensing Newsletter, vol. 8, Nos. 1-3

Report of the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the ESCAP/UNDP Regional Remote Sensing Programme and Proceedings of the Meeting of the Directors of the National Remote Sensing Centres/Programmes in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/901)

Report of the Working Group Meeting on the Commercialization of Remote Sensing, Kuala Lumpur, 22-25 November 1989 (ST/ESCAP/841)

Water Resources Journal (quarterly), March 1990 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/164), June 1990 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/165)

Energy

Compendium of Biogas and Cooking Stove Technology Research, Development and Demonstration Projects in the Asia/Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/873)

ESCAP Energy News, vol. VII, Nos. 1, 2/3 (double issue)

Population

Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin, vol. 2, Nos. 2-4

Asia-Pacific Population Journal, vol. 5, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/891); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/895); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/950); and No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/958)

Asian Population Studies Series, No. 95, *Population Aging in China* (ST/ESCAP/795); No. 96, *Malaysia* (ST/ESCAP/796); No. 97, *Republic of Korea* (ST/ESCAP/797); No. 98, *Sri Lanka* (ST/ ESCAP/798)

Catalogue of ESCAP Population Publications 1990 (ST/ESCAP/952)

Population Headliners, Nos. 184-192

Population Research Leads, No. 34, *The Role of Population Information in Response to Changing Population Policies and Programmes for the 1990s*; No. 35, *Demographic and Special Aspects of Labour Force Growth*; No. 36, *Population Situation, Policies and Programmes in Asia and the Pacific*

Report of the Workshop on Data Communications and Microcomputers for Population Programme Managers and Policy Makers in the ESCAP Region, 25-30 September 1989, Seoul (ST/ESCAP/894)

"1990 ESCAP Population Data Sheet"

Social development

Comparative Country Studies on Social Development Situations, Trends and Policies, vol. I, *Bangladesh, China and Pakistan*; vol. II, *Fiji, Philippines and Republic of Korea* (ST/ESCAP/907)

Drug Abuse Prevention Programme Development, Workshop Report No. 1: Focus on the Community-level Worker (ST/ESCAP/885); *No. 2: Classification of Target Groups* (ST/ESCAP/928); *No. 3: Drug Dependency Prevention* (ST/ESCAP/924); *No. 4: Focus on Community-based Programmes* (ST/ESCAP/903); *No. 5: Survey Design* (ST/ESCAP/932); *No. 6: Regional Seminar* (ST/ESCAP/963)

ESCAP HRD Newsletter, December 1990, No. 1

ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development (ST/ESCAP/905)

Guidelines on Methodological Approaches to the Conduct of a Regional Survey of the Quality of Life as an Aspect of Human Resources Development (ST/ESCAP/886)

Major Issues Relating to a Regional Social Development Strategy for Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/902)

Momentum, Nos. 13 and 14

Monograph on Adolescence and Crime Prevention in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/909)

Report of the Workshop on the Management of Women's Information Centres (for South Asian Countries) (ST/ESCAP/863); *ibid. (for East and South-East Asian Countries)* (ST/ESCAP/864); *ibid. (for the South Pacific Countries)* (ST/ESCAP/865)

Social Development Newsletter, Nos. 20-22

Study on the Development of Quality of Life Indicators in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/868)

Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific Newsletter, Nos. 6 and 7

Transport I (Transport and communications)

Advisory Missions and Workshops on Integrated Transport Planning (ST/ESCAP/874)

Identification of Major Problems of Urban Transport in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/856)

Railway Statistics and Information for Asia and the Pacific, 1987, vol. I (ST/ESCAP/919)

Report of the Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Training and Research in the Field of Railways, USSR, 24 August-11 September 1990 (ST/ESCAP/934)

Review of Modern Railway Technology: Use of Fully Hardened Rails on the Railways of the USSR (ST/ESCAP/842)

Study on Telecommunication Development in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/884)

Transport II (Shipping, ports and inland waterways)

ESCAP/UNDP Port Financial/Economic Planning Model User Manual, vol. 2, *Dry Bulk and Liquid Bulk Modules*; vol. 2, *Worksheet Supplement* (ST/ESCAP/890)

Guidelines for the Design of Inland Navigation Canals (ST/ESCAP/893)

Manual on Freight Forwarding (ST/ESCAP/881)

Proceedings of a Seminar-cum-Study Tour on the Impact of Containerization on Port Development, Labour Requirement and Modern Construction Techniques (ST/ESCAP/926)

Proceedings of the Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Port Development and Evaluation Policy in Developing Countries: Port Development Policy, Planning and Construction (ST/ESCAP/859)

Report and Proceedings of the Regional Seminar on Operation and Maintenance of Inland Waterways, Bangkok, 24-28 October 1988 (ST/ESCAP/854)

Report and Proceedings of the Seminar on Seafarers' Training and Education, Philippines, 16-20 November 1987 (ST/ESCAP/883)

Report of the ESCAP/UNCTAD Workshops on Multimodal Transport (ST/ESCAP/899)

Report on the Regional Seminar on Maritime Legislation (ST/ESCAP/914)

Report of the Subregional Workshop I: Maritime Transport for Shippers - Training of Training Managers (General Course) (ST/ESCAP/871)

Report of the Subregional Workshop II: Maritime Transport for Shippers - Training of Training Managers (Senior Course) (ST/ESCAP/872)

Videotapes
- *PORTMIS: Audio-visual Training Package* (TACD-PORTS/1991)
- *Inland Waterway Transport: Why IWT is Important* (TACD-IWT/1991/AV.1)
- *Dredging including Low-cost Systems* (TACD-IWT/1991/AV.2)
- *River Training Works* (TACD-IWT/1991/AV.3)
- *Aids to Navigation* (TACD-IWT/1991/AV.4)
- *Types of Vessels* (TACD-IWT/1991/AV.5)
- *Inland Ports, Types of Terminals and Handling Equipment* (TACD-IWT/1991/AV.6)

International trade and development finance

Alphabetical Index for Trade Information Sources Data Bank, Nos. 110-114 and *Annual Cumulative Index for Trade Information Sources Data Bank*, 1990

Foreign Investment Incentive Schemes: 7. People's Republic of China (ST/ESCAP/916)

Handbook on Pest and Disease Control of Mulberry and Silkworm (ST/ESCAP/888)

Prices of Selected Asia/Pacific Products (monthly), June 1990-February 1991

TISNET Trade Information Sheet (fortnightly), Nos. 181-199

Trade Information Sources Directory (quarterly), Supplement Nos. 34 and 35

Trader's Manual for Asia and the Pacific: Hong Kong (ST/ESCAP/870); *Thailand* (ST/ESCAP/847)

"TIS QUICK", Nos. 90-11 to 91-6

Tourism

Economic Impact of Tourism in Maldives (ST/ESCAP/790)

ESCAP Tourism Review No. 6: Tourism Manpower Development (ST/ESCAP/918)

Guidelines for the Production of a Standard Tourism Sector Paper (ST/ESCAP/835)

Guidelines on Input-Output Analysis of Tourism (ST/ESCAP/836)

Transnational corporations

Asia-Pacific TNC Review, 1990 (ST/ESCAP/892)

B. List of meetings

Food and agriculture

Meeting of the Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, June 1990

Interagency Task Force on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, August 1990

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Gasification of Rice Husk and Other Biomass, China and the Republic of Korea, September 1990

IFA-FADINAP Regional Fertilizer Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Phuket, Thailand, October 1990

FADINAP/NFIS Regional Workshop on Information Repackaging, Bangkok, November 1990

Regional Evaluation Seminar on Satellite Crop Monitoring, Bangkok, November 1990

Meeting of the Interagency Task Force on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, December 1990

Governing Board of the Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (ninth session), Bogor, Indonesia, January 1991

Regional Meeting on the Strengthening of Agricultural Information and Communication Systems, Bangkok, February-March 1991

Regional Symposium on Fertilizer Legislation, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, March 1991

China/ESCAP/FAO Regional Seminar on Research and Development of Teak, Guangzhou and Hainan, China, March 1991

Environment

ESCAP/UNDP Expert Group Meeting on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, Jomtien, Pattaya, Thailand, June 1990

Study Tour on Environmental Impact of Industrial, Urban Development in Coastal Areas, the Netherlands, July 1990

ESCAP/NEPA (National Environmental Protection Agency) Training Workshop on Environmentally Sound Planning for Administrators in China, Qinhuangdao, China, July 1990

Interdepartmental Environment Committee Symposium on the Environmental Management Plan for Tonga, Nuku'alofa, August 1990

Consultative Meeting in Preparation for the NGO/Media Symposium on Communication for Environment, Bangkok, September 1990

Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, October 1990

NGO/Media Symposium on Communication for Environment, Bangkok, October 1990

ESCAP/UNDP Regional Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Sand Dune Stabilization, Lanzhou, China, November 1990

ESCAP/UNDP Regional Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Degradation of Forest Lands and Reforestation in Humid Tropics to Combat Desertification, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, December 1990

Meeting of Senior Officials on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, February 1991

Training Workshop on Environmental Assessment of, Industrial and Urban Development in Coastal Areas, Thailand, February 1991

Consultative Meeting on the Environmental Assessment of Industrial and Urban Development in Coastal Areas, Thailand, February 1991

ESCAP/FEJB (Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh) Media Seminar on Population and Sustainable Development, Dhaka, February 1991

Expert Group Meeting on Environmental Assessment of Industrial and Urban Development in Coastal Areas, Bangkok, February-March 1991

Development issues and policies

Regional Seminar on an Interlinked Country Model System (ninth session), Beijing, October 1990

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, November 1990

Statistics

Asian Seminar on the Revision of the System of National Accounts, Bangkok, August 1990

Pacific Seminar on the Revision of the System of National Accounts, Suva, August-September 1990

Sixth Training Course on Electronic Data Processing, New Delhi, August-November 1990

Country Training Workshop on Statistical and Computer Applications for Censuses and Surveys, Hanoi, September-October 1990

ESCAP/SIAP Seminar on Managing National Statistical Services in the 1990s, Tokyo, October-November 1990

Training Programme on Rural Energy Statistics, Bangkok, November 1990

Asia-Pacific Seminar on the Use of Purchasing Power Parities, Niigata, Japan, November 1990

UNICEF/ESCAP Training Workshop on Social Indicators for Children and Women in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, November-December 1990

Training of Trainers Course on Electronic Data Processing, New Delhi, November-December 1990

Working Group of Statistical Experts (seventh session), Bangkok, December 1990

Country Course on the Usage of Statistical Software Packages, Nuku'alofa, February-March 1991

Human settlements

Community-level Workshop on Participatory Settlement Development, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, August 1990

Regional Seminar on Developing the Building Components Industry through the Application of Modular Co-ordination Rules, Bangkok, August 1990

Consultative Meeting of National Experts in Human Settlements of Small Pacific Island Developing Countries, Port Vila, October 1990

Workshop on Housing and Settlements Improvement, Nagoya, Japan, October 1990

Regional Seminar to Promote Public Awareness on the Issues and Policies of Low-income Shelter and Settlements, Seoul, October-November 1990

Seminar-cum-Training Course on Urban Land Use Control, Yokohama, Japan, November 1990

Working Group Meeting on Innovative Housing Finance, Bangkok, November 1990

Second Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET), Yokohama, Japan, January 1991

Regional Seminar on Human Resources Development to Improve the Quality of Life in the Intermediate Cities, Bogor, Indonesia, February-March 1991

International Workshop on Housing Development: Moving from State Subsidies to Enabling Strategies, Hanoi, March 1991

Industrial development

UNIDO/ESCAP Regional Workshop on Agro-related Metalworking Industries in Asian and Pacific Least Developed Countries, Bangkok, November 1990

Expert Panel Consultation Meeting on Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, in Particular with a View to Strengthening Regional Co-operation, Bangkok, December 1990

Co-ordination Meeting for the High-level Seminar-cum-Workshop on Human Resources Development for Industrial Development, Bangkok, January 1991

High-level Expert Group Meeting on Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, in Particular with a View to Strengthening Regional Co-operation, Bangkok, January 1991

UNIDO/UNDP Investment Forum Meeting for Viet Nam, Ho Chi Minh City, March 1991

Subregional Workshop on Promoting International Competitiveness and Efficient Resource Utilization in Manufacturing in South Asia and Selected Least Developed Countries, Bangkok, March 1991

Science and technology

Preparatory Meeting for the Workshop-cum-Study Tour on Perspectives and Policy Issues of Biotechnology, Bangkok, August 1990

TCDC Workshop on Strengthening and Development of Engineering Design and Consultancy Services for Promotion of TCDC/ECDC, New Delhi, September 1990

Working Meeting on the REDP Regional Training Workshop on Electricity Conservation in Commercial and Domestic Subsectors, Bangkok, September 1990

Workshop-cum-Study Tour on Perspectives and Policy Issues of Biotechnology, Seoul, September 1990

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery, Technical Advisory Committee (fifteenth session), Republic of Korea, October 1990

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery, Governing Body (thirteenth session), Republic of Korea, November 1990

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, Technical Advisory Committee (sixth session), Bangkok, December 1990

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, Governing Board (fifth session), Bangkok, December 1990

Regional Training Workshop on Energy Conservation in Commercial and Domestic Subsectors, Bangkok, March 1991

APCTT (Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology) Working Group on the Mechanism for Exchange of Technology Information, Bangkok, March 1991

Natural resources

Meeting of the Directors of the National Remote Sensing Centres/Programmes in the ESCAP Region and the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee, Kuala Lumpur, June 1990

Workshop on Global Environmental Change: The Role of the Geoscientist - Past, Present and Future Sea Level Changes, Chiang Mai, Thailand, July 1990

Training Course on Construction Materials, Kuala Lumpur, July 1990

Third Expert Group Meeting on Comprehensive Flood Loss Prevention and Management, Bangkok, July 1990

Course on Geological Assessment and Evaluation of Construction Materials in Land Development, Kuala Lumpur, July 1990

Workshop on Remote Sensing Applications to Desertification/Vegetation Mapping, Tehran, August 1990

Second Workshop on Epithermal Gold Mineralization, Indonesia, September 1990

Regional Seminar on Remote Sensing Applications for Geotectonic Mapping and Mineral Exploration, Tbilisi, USSR, September-October 1990

Pre-Symposium Training Course on Coal Exploration and Development, Hanoi, October 1990

International Symposium on Coal Exploration and Development, Hanoi, October 1990

UNESCO/ESCAP Second Workshop on Quaternary Stratigraphy of Asia and the Pacific, Khon Kaen, Thailand, October 1990

Typhoon Committee (twenty-third session), Seoul, November 1990

ESCAP/ADB Regional Conference on the Assessment of the Economics of Remote Sensing Applications to Natural Resources and Environment Development Projects in the ESCAP Region, Guangzhou, China, November 1990

AARS (Asian Association on Remote Sensing)/ ESCAP Eleventh Asian Conference on Remote Sensing, Guangzhou, China, November 1990

Roving Training Course in Geochemical Exploration in Viet Nam, Hanoi, November 1990

Training Course on Gemstones for the Least Developed Countries, Jaipur, India, November 1990

"PIX-îles 90" Remote Sensing and Insular Environments in the Pacific: Integrated Approaches, Noumea and Tahiti, November 1990

Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific (twenty-sixth session), Bangkok, December 1990

Working Group Meeting on the Regional Information Service and Education Networks of the ESCAP/UNDP Regional Remote Sensing Programme, Bangkok, December 1990

Panel on Tropical Cyclones (eighteenth session), Male, January-February 1991

ESCAP/UNDRO Regional Symposium on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, Bangkok, February 1991

National Training Course on Geophysical Exploration in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vientiane, February-March 1991

TCDC Training Workshop on Remote Sensing for Land-use Mapping and Planning, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, February-April 1991

ESCAP/AIDAB (Australian International Development Assistance Bureau) Working Group Meeting on Regional Co-operation in Applications for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System Technology for the South Pacific, Suva, March 1991

Energy

Training Seminar on Sectoral Energy Demand Analysis, Bangkok, June 1990

Tripartite Review Conference of the Regional Energy Development Programme (fourth session), Bangkok, August 1990

Third Training Course on the Reduction of Transmission and Distribution Losses, Kuala Lumpur, October-November 1990

Executive Seminar and Study Tour on Rural Energy Planning and Development, China and Thailand, October-November 1990

Regional Expert Group Meeting on Wind Energy Technology, China, November-December 1990

Symposium on the Climatic Effects of Increased Fossil Fuel Burning and Energy Policy Implications for the Asian and Pacific Region, Tokyo, December 1990

Seminar on Gas Market Strategy, Bangkok, January 1991

Executive Seminar and Study Visits on Natural Gas Development, Indonesia and New Zealand, February 1991

Regional Training Workshop on Energy Conservation in Small and Medium-scale Industries, New Delhi, March 1991

Population

Seminar on Family Planning Maternal and Child Health Programme Management Information Systems in the 1990s, Seoul, June 1990

Asia-Pacific POPIN Consultative Workshop, New Delhi, September-October 1990

Asia-Pacific POPIN TCDC Training Course on the Use of Microcomputers in Technical Information Work, Beijing, October-November 1990

Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, Bangkok, November 1990

ESCAP/CICRED (Committee for International Cooperation in Research in Demography) Meeting on the Integration of Population Variables into the Socio-economic Planning Process, Bangkok, December 1990

Social development

Third Meeting of the Inter-agency Committee on Youth for the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, July 1990

Inter-agency Consultation on a Programme of Action in Support of Education for All in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, July 1990

Model National Workshop on Training of Trainers in Rural and Urban Youth Work, Manila, July-August 1990

ESCAP/Ministry of Home, Nepal, Workshop for the Design of a Survey of Drug Abusers in Nepal, Kathmandu, August 1990

Seminar on Human Resources Development Policies and Programmes for Youth in the ESCAP Region, Ichon, Republic of Korea, October 1990

Meeting of Senior Officials on a Programme of Action in Support of Education for All in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, October 1990

South Asian Subregional Workshop on the Technical Processing of Information concerning Women in Development, Bangkok, October-November 1990

Regional Seminar on Drug Abuse Prevention Programme Development, Manila, November 1990

Meeting to Evaluate Guidelines on Integrating Women's Concerns in Development Planning, Bangkok, November 1990

Seminar on Co-operation between Government Agencies and Non-governmental Organizations in the Planning and Delivery of Social Services, Hong Kong, December 1990

Meeting of the Jury on the ESCAP Human Resources Development Award, Bangkok, January 1991

Expert Group Meeting on Alternative Social Development Policy and Planning Scenarios Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, Bangkok, January-February 1991

Expert Group Meeting on Self-help Organizations of Disabled Persons, Bangkok, February 1991

Meeting of Senior Officials on Drug Abuse Issues in Asia and the Pacific, Tokyo, February 1991

Transport I (Transport and communications)

Meeting of the Project Steering Committee on Demonstration of Cost-effective Railway Signalling and Telecommunication Systems (third session), Bangkok, June 1990

ESCAP/GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation) Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Road Pavement Management, Munich, Germany, June 1990

Third Co-ordinating Meeting of the Feasibility Study and Design for the Thailand-Myanmar Friendship Bridge, Bangkok, July 1990

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Training and Research in the Field of Railways, Moscow, August-September 1990

Seminar on the Impact of the European Single Market on the Development of Aviation in the Asia-Pacific Region, Paris, September 1990

Regional Workshop on Human Resources Development for Railway Personnel, Bangkok, October 1990.

Country-level Workshop on Optimal Standards for Design, Construction and Maintenance of Rural Roads in Humid Tropics, Bangkok, October 1990

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on the Socio-economic Impact of Telecommunications in Rural Areas, Shanghai, China, October 1990

Country-level Workshop on Optimal Standards for Design, Construction and Maintenance of Rural Roads in Humid Tropics, and Arid and Semi-arid Tropics, New Delhi, October 1990

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Road Bridge Maintenance, Japan, October-November 1990

Symposium on Tourism Promotion in the Asian Region, China, November 1990

Inter-agency Consultative Group Meeting on the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 (second session), Bangkok, December 1990

Meeting of Senior Government Representatives Responsible for the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, Bangkok, December 1990

Training Course on Optimal Standards for Design, Construction and Maintenance of Rural Roads with Utilization of Indigenous Materials (Coral Materials), Indonesia, February-March 1991

Transport II (Shipping, ports and inland waterways)

Meeting of the Drafting Committee on Guidelines for Port-related Legislation, Penang, Malaysia, July 1990

Seminar on PORTMIS (Port Management Information System) Training of Trainers (Audio-visual Package), Bangkok, July 1990

Regional Seminar on Operation and Maintenance of Inland Waterways, Bangkok, July 1990

Country-level Workshop on Dredging, Manila, August 1990

Country-level Workshop on Planned Maintenance of Inland Water Transport Terminals, Bangkok, August 1990

ESCAP/IMO Country-level Workshop on Facilitation of Maritime Traffic, Zhuhai, China, September 1990

Expert Group Meeting on Electronic Data Transfer between Ports and Electronic Data Interchange in Transport, Bangkok, September 1990

Training of Trainers Workshop on Freight Forwarding, Thailand, October 1990

Second Regional Seminar on Maritime Legislation, Bangkok, October 1990

Inland Water Transport Training of Trainers Programme (first session), Bangkok, October-November 1990

ESCAP/UNDP Workshop on the Implementation of the Regional Maritime Strategy Study, Bangkok, November 1990

Regional Seminar on Economic and Technical Operation of Inland Waterway Fleet, Jakarta, November 1990

ESCAP/UNDP Maritime Policy Workshop, Bangkok, November 1990

Country-level Workshop on Development and Improvement of Information and Statistical Systems on Inland Water Transport, India, December 1990

ESCAP/South Pacific Ports Association Seminar on Maritime Legislation, Noumea, December 1990

Expert Group Workshop on Port-related Legislation (second session), Bangkok, January 1991

Second Inland Water Transport Training of Trainers Programme, Bangkok, January-February 1991

ESCAP/UNCTAD Country-level Workshop on Multimodal Transport, Lonavala, India, January-February 1991

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Developments of Inland Waterways, the Netherlands, April 1991

International trade and development finance

Meeting of High-level Experts on Expansion of Intraregional Trade Prospects and Business Opportunities in Asia and the Pacific in the 1990s, Bangkok, June 1990

Second Subregional Workshop for Women Executives on Export Marketing, Kathmandu, July 1990

Commencement Workshop on the Generalized System of Preferences National Studies, Bangkok, July 1990

Seminar on Upgrading the Export Management Skills of the Managers/Owners of Silk Enterprises, Bangkok, July 1990

UNCTAD/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Trade in Services, Bangkok, August 1990

ESCAP/FTDC (Foreign Trade Development Centre) Training Course on Trade Promotion Techniques, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, August 1990

ESCAP/TRAFAC (Trade Fair Company of Ho Chi Minh City) Training Course on Trade Fairs and Exhibitions, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, August 1990

Workshop on the Review of FAO Farm Analysis Package Application for Jute/Kenaf Fibres, Bangkok, August 1990

Asian International Silk Fair '90, Munich, Germany, October 1990

Seminar on Silk Promotion, Munich, Germany, October 1990

Steering Committee of the Asian International Silk Fair '90 (final session), Munich, Germany, October 1990

Third Subregional Workshop for Women Executives on Export Marketing, Port Vila, October 1990

National Workshop on the Generalized System of Preferences, Singapore, November 1990

National Workshop on the Generalized System of Preferences, Republic of Korea, November 1990

Government Consultation among Jute Producing Countries (thirteenth session), Dhaka, November 1990

ESCAP/UNCTAD Workshop on Computerization and Electronic Data Interchange in Trade and Customs, Singapore, December 1990

Workshop on Export Management and Marketing Techniques, New Delhi, December 1990

ESCAP/UNCTAD/CCC National-level Seminar and Workshop on Trade Facilitation, Karachi and Islamabad, Pakistan, January 1991

National Workshop on the Generalized System of Preferences, Hong Kong, January 1991

Final Workshop on the Generalized System of Preferences, Kuala Lumpur, February 1991

Tourism

Symposium on Tourism Promotion in the Asian Region, China, November 1990

C. List of advisory and other services

Food and agriculture

(a) Afghanistan, to assess fertilizer sector development;

(b) Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, to conduct a fertilizer sector study;

(c) Bangladesh, to provide inputs to the Seventh Meeting of the CIRDAP Technical Committee;

(d) Bangladesh and India, to collect data on pesticides;

(e) India: (i) to contribute to a seminar of the Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) on the fertilizer scene in the 1990s; (ii) to study the fertilizer sector; (iii) to discuss environmental issues relating to fertilizer application; and (iv) to participate as a faculty member in an FAI training programme;

(f) Indonesia: (i) to prepare a regional seminar-cum-study tour on gasification of rice husk and other biomass; and (ii) to lecture at a International Fertilizer Development Center training programme on fertilizer marketing;

(g) Japan, to prepare a regional meeting on agricultural information and communication systems;

(h) Lao People's Democratic Republic and Islamic Republic of Iran, to identify fertilizer information systems;

(i) Pakistan, to the National Fertilizer Development Center, on computerized documentation and information systems;

(j) Panama, to contribute to an FAO/FIAC (Fertilizer Industry Advisory Committee) seminar on fertilizer pricing policies and subsidies;

(k) Philippines: (i) on intercultural project management; (ii) to provide an input to an APO (Asian Productivity Organization)/RSI (Resource Systems Institute) seminar on fertilizer policies; and (iii) to contribute to a regional workshop on crop-based small-scale processing industries;

(l) United States of America, to lecture at the 13th Phosphate Sulphur Symposium in Boca Raton, Florida;

(m) Viet Nam, to prepare a regional symposium on fertilizer legislation.

Development issues and policies

(a) Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepal, on activities related to the least developed countries, including the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

(b) Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam, on the proposed ESCAP council for regional economic cooperation;

(c) Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, on control and management of government expenditure;

(d) China, in cooperation with the Regional Training Centre (Fuzhou), on enhancing trade;

(e) Lao People's Democratic Republic: (i) on technical assistance needs and proposals, and (ii) on recent developments and policy options;

(f) Malaysia, on the timber industry;

(g) Poland, in collaboration with the Research Centre on Debt and Development, on problems of integration into the world economy;

(h) Thailand, to lecture at (i) Chulalongkorn University, on selected issues in development policy in the Asian and Pacific region; and (ii) the National Defence College, on Asian and Pacific regional cooperation.

Environment

(a) China, to assist in training administrators in environmentally sound planning;

(b) Hong Kong, to the Environmental Protection Department, on carrying out a review of the Department's administrative procedures for environmental impact assessment, the mechanisms for requiring projects to be subject to an environmental impact assessment and the effectiveness of the present system;

(c) Indonesia, to assist the State Ministry for Population and Environment in the conduct of a national seminar on motivating the private sector and non-governmental organizations to participate in environmentally sound and sustainable development;

(d) Philippines: (i) to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for undertaking a detailed technical review and evaluation of two national priority projects on the rehabilitation of urban rivers; (ii) to assist the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in undertaking a detailed technical review of an interim report on the feasibility study on the Pasig River rehabilitation programme; and (iii) to advise the Department of Science and Technology on developing a national training programme on low- and non-waste technologies and on a national environmental research and development programme;

(e) Republic of Korea, to the Ministry of Environment, on planning and organizing a national workshop on environmentally sound and sustainable development and other environmental matters;

(f) Thailand: to the Office of the National Environment Board (ONEB), (i) on developing guidelines for reviewing environmental impact assessment reports; (ii) on training ONEB staff in impact assessment methodologies, including air and water quality modelling; and (iii) on improving the environmental impact assessment process.

Human settlements

(a) Bogor, Indonesia, on the preparations for the organization of a regional seminar on intermediate cities;

(b) Colombo, to represent ESCAP at a subregional policy seminar for South Asian countries on global strategy for shelter to the year 2000, organized by UNCHS and the Government of Sri Lanka, August 1990;

(c) India and Pakistan: (i) on the implementation of an ESCAP/CITYNET project on environmentally sound and sustainable development of urban areas; and (ii) to compile information on the environmental conditions of Bombay and Karachi in collaboration with the French cities of Lyon and Nancy;

(d) Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, on the implementation of a project on human resources development for effective subnational area planning through action-oriented research;

(e) Japan: (i) to advise the executive committee of CITYNET on the preparations for the next congress at Kuala Lumpur and Penang; and (ii) to assist the City of Yokohama in a land-use control seminar;

(f) Malaysia: (i) on preparations required for CITYNET seminars on environmental issues and energy management systems; and (ii) to promote cooperation between the International Union of Local Authorities/Asian Pacific Section (IULA-ASPAC) and CITYNET;

(g) New York, to represent ESCAP at the World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future;

(h) Philippines and Thailand, on the implementation of a project on human resources development to improve the quality of life in intermediate cities;

(i) Viet Nam: (i) to Ho Chi Minh City, to organize a community-level workshop on participatory settlement development; (ii) to the Hanoi Housing Bank on the implementation of guidelines on innovative community-based housing finance; and (iii) to the People's Committee of Hanoi on housing policy.

International trade and development finance

(a) Afghanistan, to prepare the request lists of Afghanistan for the Bangkok Agreement members and to promote the Asian Clearing Union;

(b) Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam, to provide advisory services and training in trade information techniques;

(c) Bangladesh: (i) to the Expert Consultation of the International Jute Organization on Project Identification; and (ii) to select a national consultant for the project studies on the role of services in the economy and in the development of countries in the ESCAP region;

(d) Bhutan, on trade facilitation;

(e) China, to provide advisory services to the participants at a symposium on tourism promotion in the Asian region;

(f) Hong Kong: (i) to assist in the preparation of an agricultural commodity development plan and policy evaluation; and (ii) to implement the Hong Kong GSP (generalized system of preferences) national study;

(g) Hong Kong and Republic of Korea, to identify statistical information on trade in services in selected Asian developing countries;

(h) Malaysia, to the Committee on Other Measures of the International Natural Rubber Organization, to identify project ideas for the United Nations Common Fund for Commodities;

(i) Maldives, on tourism promotion;

(j) Pakistan, on the area to be covered in a national-level workshop on trade facilitation;

(k) Papua New Guinea: (i) to prepare the request lists of Papua New Guinea for the Bangkok Agreement members; and (ii) to promote the Asian Clearing Union and the Asian Reinsurance Corporation;

(l) Singapore, to provide technical assistance and advisory services for a workshop on computerization and electronic data interchange in trade and customs;

(m) Viet Nam, on export promotion techniques and trade fairs and exhibitions.

Natural resources

(a) Bangladesh, on flood management;

(b) Bhutan: (i) on the reassessment of the economic feasibility of the Chakula-Ganekha Pb-Zn deposit and preparation of a publication on the geology and mineral resources of Bhutan; and (ii) to prepare a report on the institutional upgrading of the Department of Mines and Geology and to draft a relevant project document for submission to UNDP;

(c) Bhutan and Nepal, on the current status, role, problems of and the prospects for small-scale mining;

(d) China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan, on remote sensing and geographic information system technologies;

(e) Indonesia, to assess seismic risk and to collect data for the mitigation of seismic disasters;

(f) Islamic Republic of Iran, to advise and lecture on coal exploration techniques and methods to the National Iranian Steel Company;

(g) Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, on industrial minerals exploration and evaluation;

(h) Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, on sectoral energy demand studies within the framework of the energy programme on integrated energy planning (REDP activity P-1);

(i) Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam, on flood forecasting and damage reduction;

(j) Malaysia, to prepare a study and formulate a hydrologic/hydrolic flood forecasting model for the Batu Pahat river basin;

(k) Nepal, to assess the mining potential of the coal resources of the country;

(l) Philippines, to assess earthquake damage to coastal areas and to collect data for the assessment of seismic risk;

(m) Sri Lanka, on the restructuring of the mineral sector and enactment of new mineral legislation;

(n) Thailand: (i) to advise and lecture on coal exploration in Lampang Province; (ii) on the development of water resources and management in relation to salinity; and (iii) on the establishment of an ASEAN coal information centre;

(o) Tonga, on the draft of the "Energy Act";

(p) Vanuatu, to prepare a country case study on the assessment of current preparedness programmes, forecasting systems and operational methods for water-related natural disaster reduction;

(q) Viet Nam: (i) on the formulation of mineral policy and preparation of a strategic mineral development plan; and (ii) on the study of the urban geology of Hanoi.

Science and technology

(a) The ASEAN countries, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, to collect up-to-date information on standardization facilities and assess the possibility of using them as common service facilities;

(b) China, to assess the modalities of implementation of the SPARKS programme;

(c) India, to the Department for Scientific and Industrial Research, to assist in finalizing the preparatory work for organizing and servicing a TCDC workshop on strengthening and development of engineering design and consultancy services for the promotion of ECDC/TCDC;

(d) Republic of Korea, to assist in finalizing the preparatory work for organizing and servicing a workshop on policies and perspectives on biotechnology;

(e) Thailand, to participate in an AIT workshop on development of science and technology in ASEAN countries and the related problems and prospects, and scope for cooperation with the European Economic Community.

Statistics

(a) Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, on the assessment of energy data requirements and their collection, and implementation of sectoral energy demand studies;

(b) Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, on tabulation, analysis and interpretation of the results of labour force surveys;

(c) Hong Kong and Indonesia, on various aspects of government information systems and office automation;

(d) India, to assist in the development of statistical and trade databases and their implementation;

(e) Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (twice) and Tonga (twice), to assist with various aspects of population statistics, vital statistics and vital registration systems;

(f) Indonesia, Maldives, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka, to assist with various aspects of computer processing and analysis relating to population censuses and surveys, and training of personnel in computer systems and usage of software packages;

(g) Indonesia and Tonga, in connection with the formulation of project documents on demographic and vital statistics surveys and vital registration systems;

(h) Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macau, Malaysia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Vanuatu and Viet Nam (four times), on processing, tabulation, sampling methods, analysis and preparation of reports of population censuses and demographic and housing surveys;

(i) Malaysia, to assist in developing a methodological study in improving statistics on the economic activities of women;

(j) Maldives and Pakistan, on the collection of national accounts statistics;

(k) Myanmar, to assist in the review of ongoing strategies and the exploration of future strategies for UNFPA activities;

Secretariat staff delivered lectures and/or made technical presentations at:

(i) The SIAP country course in national accounts statistics in Maldives; (ii) to SPC (South Pacific Commission)/ESCAP Expert Group on Classification and Analysis of Economic Activities in Population Censuses, the Fourth Regional Meeting of Population Census and National-level Planners and Eighth Regional Conference of Statisticians in New Caledonia; (iii) the Regional Energy Planning and Development Executive Seminar and Study Tour at Beijing, Hangzhou and Bangkok; (iv) the South Asian Workshop on Technical Processing of Information concerning Women in Development at Bangkok; (v) the Workshop on Statistics and Indicators on Women in Development at Kuala Lumpur; (vi) the Thirteenth Population Census Conference in Honolulu; (vii) the Symposium on Information Technology in the Republic of Korea; (viii) the Expert Group Meeting on the United Nations System of National Accounts Co-ordination and the Meeting of the Inter-secretariat Group at Washington, D.C.

Social development

(a) Bangladesh, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore and Sri Lanka, to strengthen national information systems on women in development, and to promote cooperation between government agencies and non-governmental organizations in the delivery of social services for women;

(b) Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, on the enhancement of policies and programmes related to disabilities;

(c) Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Viet Nam, on policies and programmes to promote participation of youth in development;

(d) China, India, Nepal and Philippines, on policies and programmes concerning demand aspects of drug abuse control;

(e) China and Thailand, on the prevention of crime, and criminal justice policies;

(f) Indonesia and Philippines, to support and monitor the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region.

Transport I (Transport and communications)

(a) Germany, to participate in a GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation) seminar on liberalization of transport in third world countries, Munich, June 1990;

(b) Maldives and Singapore, on road planning, September 1990.

Transport II (Shipping, ports and inland waterways)

(a) Brunei Darussalam, on planning of an import-based container terminal and diagnosis of the bottleneck areas in the port;

(b) China: (i) on management and supervision of dredging contracts; and (ii) on container management, information tracking and location;

(c) India, on PORTMIS and port computerization;

(d) Kiribati, on national maritime law, international maritime conventions and the South Pacific Maritime Code;

(e) Myanmar, on dredging;

(f) Pakistan: (i) on container operation; and (ii) on model port planning and management, and long-term port computer development;

(g) Sri Lanka, on container operation.

Chapter III

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

103. The forty-seventh session of the Commission was held at Seoul, from 1 to 10 April 1991.

104. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Hong Kong, Macau and Republic of the Marshall Islands.

105. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Germany and Israel attended. A representative of the Holy See also attended under Economic and Social Council decision 244 (LXIII).

106. The session was also attended by officials of the United Nations Secretariat, representing the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Co-ordination of Cambodian Humanitarian Assistance Programmes, the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development.

107. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Population Fund and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

108. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

109. A representative of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade also attended.

110. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Clearing Union, Asian Development Bank, Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Asian Productivity Organization, Asian-Pacific Postal Union, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Commission of the European Communities, Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas, Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Commonwealth Secretariat, Colombo Plan Bureau, Forum Secretariat, International Jute Organization, Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, International Organization for Migration, International Pepper Community, South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, South Pacific Commission and Typhoon Committee.

111. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in category I: Brotherhood of Asian Trade Unionists, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Co-operative Alliance, International Council of Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Agricultural Producers, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Organization for Standardization, International Organization of Consumers' Unions, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Social Security Association, International Union of Local Authorities, League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, World Assembly of Youth, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Muslim Congress and World Veterans Federation; and from the following organizations in category II: Baha'i International Community, International Federation on Ageing, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association and World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises.

112. The list of participants is given in document ESCAP(XLVII)/INF.5.

113. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, the Commission at its 709th meeting elected H.E. Mr. Lee Sang-Ock (Republic of Korea) Chairman.

114. Following the past practice of the Commission and after informal consultations, the Chairman proposed and the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations Vice-Chairmen: H.E. Mr. Saifur Rahman (Bangladesh), H.E. Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Haji Ahmad Wally Skinner (Brunei Darussalam), H.E. Mr. Liu Huaqiu (China), The Hon. Berenado Vunibobo (Fiji), H.E. Dr. Subramanian Swamy (India), H.E. Mr. Ali Alatas (Indonesia), H.E. Mr. Masoud Nili (Islamic Republic of Iran), H.E. Mr. Muneo Suzuki (Japan), H.E. Mr. Soubanh Srithirath (Lao People's Democratic Republic), H.E. Tuan Syed Hamid Jaafar Albar (Malaysia), H.E. Mr. Ch. Purevdorj (Mongolia), H.E. U Ohn Gyaw (Myanmar), The Hon. Dr. Devendra R. Panday (Nepal), H.E. Mr. Ch. Hamid Nasir Chattha (Pakistan), The Hon. John Giheno, MP (Papua New Guinea), The Hon. Pablo R. Suarez, Jr. (Philippines), H.E. Mr. Yatiman Yusof

(Singapore), H.E. M.R. Kasem S. Kasemsri (Thailand), The. Hon. James Cecil Cocker (Tonga), H.E. Mr. Vu Khoan (Viet Nam).

115. Mr. Joseph Hafmans (Papua New Guinea) was elected Rapporteur-General of the plenary session.

116. The Chairman proposed and the Commission decided to appoint two Committees of the Whole to consider agenda items 7, 8 and 12. Committee of the Whole I elected H.E. Dr. Manaspas Xuto (Thailand) Chairman and H.E. Mr. Kazi Anwarul Masud (Bangladesh) and Mr. Murray Cobban (Australia) Vice-Chairmen; Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hoi (Viet Nam) was elected Rapporteur. Committee of the Whole II elected Mr. Saied Kalantar-Nia (Islamic Republic of Iran) Chairman and H.E. Dato' Ajit Singh (Malaysia) and Mr. Kenji Shimizu (Japan) Vice-Chairmen; Mr. Nestor Padalhin (Philippines) was elected Rapporteur. The Commission also decided to constitute an informal working group on draft resolutions under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Karunasena Kodituwakku (Sri Lanka) to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Mr. Yang Guanqun (China) was elected Vice-Chairman of the informal working group.

117. The Chairman announced at the Commission's 713th meeting that, in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, he and the Vice-Chairmen, constituting the Credentials Committee, had examined the credentials of all the representatives and had found them to be in order.

B. Agenda

118. At its 709th meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening addresses.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ESCAP/L.116/Rev.1, E/ESCAP/L.117 and Corr.1 and 2).

4. Policies and perspectives for the economic and social development of the ESCAP region:

    (a) Review of the development of the ESCAP region (ST/ESCAP/949 (English only), ST/ESCAP/949/ Add.1 (Chinese, French and Russian only));

    (b) Impact of some recent international developments on the economies of Asia and the Pacific and their development prospects (E/ESCAP/749 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/750 and Corr.1).

5. Industrial restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, in particular with a view to strengthening regional cooperation (E/ESCAP/751).

6. International initiatives in the field of economic and social development:

    (a) International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (1991-2000) (E/ESCAP/752);

    (b) Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s: follow-up of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (E/ESCAP/753 and Add.1 and 2);

    (c) Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations (E/ESCAP/754).

7. Reports of legislative committees, and review of the work of the Commission and ESCAP regional institutions, including programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993 (E/ESCAP/755, E/ESCAP/756, E/ESCAP/757, E/ESCAP/818):

    (a) Agricultural and rural development, including the Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/758, E/ESCAP/759, E/ESCAP/760, E/ESCAP/807);

    (b) Development issues and policies (E/ESCAP/761);

    (c) Energy, including the Regional Energy Development Programme and the Pacific Energy Development Programme (E/ESCAP/762, E/ESCAP/763, E/ESCAP/764, E/ESCAP/808);

    (d) Human resources development, including implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (E/ESCAP/765, E/ESCAP/766, E/ESCAP/816);

    (e) Environment: follow-up of the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and other issues and programmes (E/ESCAP/767, E/ESCAP/768 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/809, E/ESCAP/817);

    (f) Human settlements (E/ESCAP/769, E/ESCAP/810);

    (g) Industrial and technological development, including the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (E/ESCAP/770, E/ESCAP/771, E/ESCAP/772, E/ESCAP/773 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/774, E/ESCAP/811, E/ESCAP/812);

    (h) International trade and development finance (E/ESCAP/775, E/ESCAP/776);

(i) Natural resources, including marine affairs (E/ESCAP/777, E/ESCAP/813);

(j) Population, including multidisciplinary regional population strategies for the 1990s (E/ESCAP/778, E/ESCAP/779, E/ESCAP/780, E/ESCAP/781);

(k) Social development (E/ESCAP/782, E/ESCAP/783, E/ESCAP/784, E/ESCAP/785, E/ESCAP/786);

(l) Women in development (E/ESCAP/787, E/ESCAP/788);

(m) Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries (E/ESCAP/789);

(n) Statistics, including the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/790, E/ESCAP/791, E/ESCAP/814);

(o) Transport and communications: mid-term review of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 and other issues and programmes (E/ESCAP/792, E/ESCAP/793, E/ESCAP/794, E/ESCAP/801).

8. Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (E/ESCAP/795).

9. Special problems faced by the Pacific island countries: the Commission's activities in the Pacific (E/ESCAP/796).

10. In-depth study of the intergovernmental subsidiary structure of the Commission (E/ESCAP/797, E/ESCAP/798 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/799).

11. Announcement of intended contributions (E/ESCAP/800, E/ESCAP/815 and Corr.1).

12. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies (E/ESCAP/802, E/ESCAP/803, E/ESCAP/804, E/ESCAP/821).

13. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/805 and Add.1).

14. Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the forty-eighth session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/806).

15. Admission of new members (E/ESCAP/819, E/ESCAP/820).

16. Other matters.

17. Adoption of the report of the Commission (E/ESCAP/L.118).

C. Account of proceedings

119. The session was declared open by the Hon. Berenado Vunibobo, Minister for Trade and Commerce of Fiji, the outgoing Chairman. His Excellency Mr. Roh Tae Woo, President of the Republic of Korea, delivered the inaugural address. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary delivered an address.

Inaugural address by the President of the Republic of Korea

120. The President of the Republic of Korea, speaking on behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Korea, welcomed those attending the session.

121. Since its establishment in 1947, ESCAP had made a continuous effort and had contributed enormously to the promotion of economic well-being, friendship and cooperation among the nations of Asia and the Pacific. The ESCAP region had seen tremendous progress and development since the end of the Second World War. With the vestiges of the era of colonialism and widespread global conflagration, the region had been plagued by poverty, ignorance and backwardness. Forty-four years had since passed and today Asia and the Pacific had become a most vibrant and dynamic region, with the highest rate of growth in the world.

122. The transformation that the region had undergone was truly remarkable in all areas, including the political, economic, social and cultural. Exchanges and cooperation between and among the nations of the region had also increased in a rapid and progressive manner. Nearly 60 per cent of the total world population had joined together in the region to pursue an Asian and Pacific identity and to reaffirm their lasting commitment to world peace and the prosperity of mankind. He joined all nations of the region in appreciation of the favourable progress of history and in the hope of a brighter future for Asia and the Pacific in the twenty-first century.

123. ESCAP had played a vital and invaluable role in the process of regional development. As the principal arm of the United Nations in the Asian and Pacific region, it had facilitated technology transfer and assisted in the acceleration of numerous economic development programmes, of which the Republic of Korea had been one of the principal beneficiaries. The Commission had laid a firm foundation for regional cooperation by establishing and operating such development-oriented functional organizations as the Asian Development Bank, the Asian and Pacific Development Centre and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology. ESCAP had long been recognized as the most important forum for intergovernmental dialogue in the region. He expressed the desire that it continue to play an important role in strengthening regional cooperation, as well as in promoting friendly and cooperative relations among members and associate members.

124. The world was ushering in new tides of reconciliation and cooperation which were certain to

bring new and encouraging changes to that vast region. However, numerous obstacles had yet to be surmounted. Disputes stemming from race, religion, ideology and prejudice raged on in many parts of the world. The Persian Gulf war was a stark reminder that the world was still fraught with uncertainty and instability. The gap between the have and have-not countries and innumerable endemic issues continued to illustrate the seriousness of the North-South problem.

125. What had brought unprecedented progress and prosperity to the region in the post-war era was the free trade system. The trends towards protectionism and regional blocs would only serve to constrict the world economy and hamper the economic development efforts not only of the developing countries but of developed countries as well. If those challenges were to be met successfully, the only alternative lay in promoting mutual cooperation and market liberalization. The primary challenge was to turn the vast region into a zone of open doors and mutual cooperation by marshalling the unbounded potential of Asia and the Pacific for peace and prosperity. The ESCAP region embraced a great diversity of race, religion, history and culture in its vast expanse. It comprised a large pool of countries with divergent socio-economic systems, stages of development and industrial structures. If harmful competition was to be removed and conflicting interests were to be resolved with a view to maximizing harmony of interests and common benefits, diversity could serve to spur the promotion of cooperation among the economies of the region.

126. The Asian and Pacific countries had set the pace not only in South-South cooperation but also in North-South cooperation. Together, it would be possible to promote closer and mutually beneficial cooperative relations.

127. The industrial restructuring and adjustments that the Commission had been pursuing would undoubtedly facilitate and accelerate technology transfer and the horizontal division of labour on the basis of the complementary features of the economies of the region, and would contribute substantially to the progress and prosperity of all parties involved. The Republic of Korea, which had become a newly industrializing country within a span of one generation, was prepared to share its development experience and know-how. As a leading developing country, the Republic of Korea was prepared to contribute actively to the promotion of harmonious regional cooperation by playing the role of a bridge between the advanced and developing countries and between market and socialist economies.

128. The Republic of Korea was acutely aware that the relaxation of tension in the Korean peninsula and improved relations between South and North Korea were the keys to the enhancement of cooperation and stability in the Asian and Pacific region. The Republic of Korea continued to seek membership in the United Nations with a view to carrying out better its share of responsibilities and making a better contribution to the Asian and Pacific region and the world. The entry into the United Nations of both South and North Korea until such time as the peninsula was unified would be conducive to the peace and stability not only of the Korean peninsula but of the entire region.

129. The world was currently undergoing a phenomenal change as powerful waves of reconciliation removed the barriers that used to divide mankind and cause confrontation. Mindful of that momentous change, he expressed the hope that the session would be a landmark in the cause of cooperation and open-mindedness in the Asian and Pacific region and a more peaceful and prosperous twenty-first century.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

130. In his message, the Secretary-General of the United Nations noted that the fact that the session was being held at Seoul as the first major United Nations conference to be hosted by the Republic of Korea was a tribute to a country and people that had demonstrated to the whole world what determination and sound economic policies could achieve.

131. In 1990, the world had appeared to be poised at the threshold of a new era of peace and international harmony. Improvements in the relations between major powers had ended the period of ideological confrontation that had so dominated the post-war evolution of international relations. The process of democratization in many parts of the world had renewed the hope that, unencumbered by global tension and regional conflicts, mankind would at last be able to devote greater energy and resources to combating the urgent and serious economic and social problems that confronted humanity and prepare itself to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

132. In 1991, optimism had been tempered with the realization of how difficult and complex it was to sustain peace. The crisis in the area of the Persian Gulf and the ensuing war had caused immense suffering and devastation. Now that the war was over, it was hoped that the search for a lasting peace for the entire region and its long-suffering peoples would succeed.

133. A full assessment of the effects of the war in the Persian Gulf would take time. Its implications for regional economic development and political security would also need to be analysed and understood. The review by the Commission of the effects of the war on the Asian and Pacific region was timely and would be useful for prescribing effective remedies to ameliorate the situation in the countries most affected by the crisis.

134. The overall situation of the developing countries remained precarious. Neither in Africa nor in Latin America was there any visible sign of a significant shift in the persisting low levels of economic growth.

135. What was of particular significance was the fact that the developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region, even during periods of significant slowing down in the international economy, had been able to sustain, and in some cases improve, their economic performance. The region as a whole had shown remarkable resilience even at a time of set-backs in the global economy. It was a matter of deep concern, however, that despite the exceptional economic performance of the region, the gap between the rich and poor had continued to widen. While the Asian and Pacific region included one of the most

important economies in the world, as well as some of the most rapidly growing ones, it also had the largest number of people living below subsistence level. It was obvious that economic growth by itself was unable to eradicate poverty and that much greater attention needed to be given to that serious problem. The real challenge was not merely to sustain current levels of economic growth but also to take direct and more effective measures to reduce poverty, including through integrating the poor into mainstream economic activities and improved population programmes.

136. It was hoped that the end of the Persian Gulf war and the process of reconstruction and development in the region would re-establish optimism and contribute to the process of revitalization of the global economy. The evolution in East-West relations could also make a positive contribution to that process. A strong commitment on the part of all concerned would no doubt lead to a positive outcome, in which a process of modernization of the economies in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and their further integration into the world economy would constitute a positive impulse for the development of the developing countries.

137. Recent developments in the world economy, particularly in the field of international trade, had pointed towards the increasing use of regional groupings or trading blocs. That was also evident in the Asian and Pacific region, which had an important stake in promoting stronger and more open trading relationships both within and outside the region. The importance of an open trading arrangement was vividly borne out in the success stories of several countries in the ESCAP region during the 1980s. The dynamics displayed by those countries had set in motion a region-wide restructuring providing strong impetus to sustained cooperation among the countries of the region as a whole. Early resumption of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and its positive conclusion, which would take fully into account the consensus of the developing countries, should also be the common objective of the international community.

138. The theme of the current session of the Commission, "Industrial restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, in particular with a view to strengthening regional co-operation", was both apt and timely. For over four decades, the Commission had played a major catalytic role in creating a common will among the countries in the region to forge cooperation. It had been the driving force in reviving the underlying links which cross-fertilized and mutually enriched the ancient cultures and civilizations that were the proud heritage of the region.

139. Strengthening regional cooperation was both a challenge and an opportunity for member States, as well as for the Commission. The progress achieved would no doubt be an important milestone for the countries of the region but would also serve as an example for other regions. While significant progress had been achieved in forging regional cooperation, there was also a need to focus on interregional activities, not only in view of the region's close links with the global economy but also in view of the fact that the economically vibrant region of Asia and the Pacific could contribute towards the development process in other regions.

140. ESCAP had been particularly successful in forging stronger links between the widely disparate economies of the region. That was due not only to the energetic efforts of the Commission but also to the collective wisdom and statesmanship of countries of the region. The United Nations remained committed to supporting those efforts.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

141. The Executive Secretary welcomed all the delegations to the session and expressed his gratitude to the President of the Republic of Korea for having consented to inaugurate the session and for his encouragement, which served as a reaffirmation of the commitment of the Republic of Korea to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to the development objectives of ESCAP. He also expressed gratitude to the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea and thanked the concerned officials of the host Government who had worked so patiently and energetically for the organization of the session at Seoul.

142. He noted that a number of important issues of pressing concern in the economic and social fields were to be considered during the current session. In the aftermath of the war in the Persian Gulf region and the historic changes in Eastern Europe, as well as the continuing uncertainties in the global economy, the Commission's deliberations and policy guidance would have an important bearing on the affairs of the region. Foremost among the issues before the Commission was the question of strengthening regional economic cooperation while preserving an open trading environment.

143. Since economic growth and social progress were the Commission's main goal, it had an opportunity to view at first hand evidence of one of the most dramatic success stories in the annals of development. The Republic of Korea had accomplished an astonishing transformation over the past three decades, not only setting the pace in the region's manufactured-exports drive but also consistently ranking among the leaders in economic growth. The achievements of the Republic of Korea offered valuable lessons that, it was hoped, would become of widening benefit in the developing region of Asia and the Pacific.

144. The secretariat remained committed to continuing its best efforts to serve the members and associate members of the Commission in accelerating the pace of development in the Asian and Pacific region.

Policies and perspectives for the economic and social development of the ESCAP region

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

145. The Executive Secretary drew the Commission's attention to the fluidity in the world economic situation in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf conflict and the uncertainty of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. The quick end to the conflict had engendered hope for a lasting peace in the

region involved, and the resumption of the multilateral negotiations, for a more liberal world trading system. However, uncertainties and apprehensions about the final outcome persisted.

146. Many parts of the developing Asian and Pacific region were just emerging from the ravages of war, civil strife and economic malaise, but continued to suffer from their isolation from the world economy despite the dramatic end of the cold war, in which they had tended to become embroiled. The Persian Gulf crisis and the lingering uncertainty of the Uruguay Round dimmed further the prospects for the growth and development of the developing countries of the region. The Executive Secretary noted that it was a matter of some satisfaction that the developing Asian and Pacific region had maintained an overall growth rate of 5.4 per cent in 1990, the same rate as in 1989. The outlook for 1991, however, was for considerably slower growth, with the poorer and non-oil exporting developing economies in South and South-East Asia, especially the least developed among them, bearing the brunt of the deceleration. The Pacific island countries had also been very severely affected by a host of unfavourable developments and events beyond their control.

147. The current international developments had had a major effect on the trade and capital flows in the region. The rate of growth in the dollar value of exports from the developing ESCAP region had been reduced in 1989 to half that of 1988 and had decelerated further in 1990. Deceleration in the growth of imports, however, was much less, and prospects for larger oil import bills would further aggravate the balance-of-payments problems. Moreover, the prospects for capital transfers to deficit countries, including remittances, had also dimmed owing to declining surpluses in Japan and the newly industrializing economies, and the competing needs of Eastern European economies, which were receiving increased attention from industrialized countries.

148. The Executive Secretary sought to draw the attention of policy makers to the need for effective measures to arrest the erosion in the region's economic performance. One area of urgent attention was economic and social infrastructure development, which was generally inadequate in most developing economies of the ESCAP region, as had been brought out in both the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1990* and the study on industrial restructuring, the theme topic of the current session of the Commission.

149. The industrial restructuring process currently taking place in the Asian and Pacific region had opened up new vistas for regional cooperation in such fields as technology transfer, foreign investment, trade, human resources development, energy conservation and the development of small industries. National efforts in those areas could be strengthened by cooperation at the regional level. The secretariat study on industrial restructuring and the suggestions it contained were intended to facilitate the progress of the industrial restructuring process and regional cooperation in the ESCAP region.

150. Another area where effective policy action was a critical necessity in the 1990s was environmental protection. The issue had not yet been given sufficient attention and it was evident that, without appropriate policies and incentives to solve the region's various worsening environmental problems, they would become a major obstacle to further development. The Executive Secretary, however, noted that at the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok in October 1990, the countries had formulated a common policy platform to begin mitigating the effects of environmental degradation by promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development, which emphasized in particular the need for regional cooperation to pursue such development in the most effective way.

151. With growing interaction among peoples and countries, the enduring importance of regional cooperation to promote, support, accelerate and sustain national growth and development was receiving greater attention. The potential for regional cooperation had long been recognized in other parts of the world, where extensive arrangements and structures had been developed to harness its benefits in virtually all areas of economic and social endeavour. The Executive Secretary invited the members and associate members of ESCAP also to take advantage of the clear potential for greater region-wide cooperation in a mutually complementary fashion.

152. The Executive Secretary invited the Commission's attention to the recommendations of the Group of Eminent Persons on Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission, suggesting reorientation of the future programmes and activities of ESCAP, with focus on three themes of over-riding importance - regional economic cooperation, environmentally sound and sustainable development, and poverty alleviation and economic growth - while retaining the sectoral approach to other aspects of its activities. The recommendations also included, for the Commission's consideration, institutional arrangements reflecting the belief that regional cooperation should be a matter of high priority and importance to Asian and Pacific countries. The rapid growth of the region's developing economies during the past three decades had created considerable room for mutually supportive and complementary restructuring within the developing Asian and Pacific region. The process of differentiation taking place across the region had increased quite considerably in recent years, bringing about greater complementarity and also creating conditions for greater inter-dependence among Asian and Pacific countries, which was likely to intensify in the coming decade and offer further opportunities for cooperation.

153. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the Commission's keenness to pursue effectively the objectives of social progress and well-being would be amply manifested in the holding of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development in 1991 at Manila, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, and the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in 1992 in Indonesia, at the invitation of the Government, in which UNFPA would cooperate with ESCAP.

154. The Executive Secretary expressed deep gratitude to the many donor countries, including some 22 of the developing economies of the region, that had

consistently contributed sizeable sums to enable the secretariat to meet, at least partially, the growing demand for technical assistance from developing Asian and Pacific countries. He also expressed sincere appreciation to UNDP of its sustained support and cooperation.

155. The Executive Secretary observed that the problems faced by the ESCAP region were many and complex. New difficulties kept arising with trying frequency in the process of development demanding responses that must be increasingly innovative to produce results. The region still faced the staggering problems of mass poverty, illiteracy and social deprivation that engulfed hundreds of millions of people. Their plight cried out for solutions.

156. The Executive Secretary concluded his statement on an optimistic note: through perseverance and purposive efforts those challenges and difficulties could be overcome.

Review of the development of the ESCAP region

157. The Commission's discussion on the recent progress in and prospects for economic and social development in the ESCAP region was based, *inter alia*, on the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1990* (ST/ESCAP/949). The Commission reviewed national and international policies for sustained development in the region.

158. The Commission expressed disappointment at the adverse turn in the international situation in 1990, which had reversed the strong hopes raised earlier against the backdrop of the end to the cold war and the prospects for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. The failure to realize those hopes, followed by the Persian Gulf conflict, which had resulted in enormous loss of life and property, had added to recessionary fears and created new uncertainties in the international economic environment.

159. Those international developments had had an adverse effect on the economic performance and prospects of the developing countries in the ESCAP region, which, having weakened in many countries in 1990, were likely to deteriorate further in 1991. Many developing countries in the region had suffered loss of exports, tourism revenues and workers' remittances, and faced higher import costs of oil as a direct result of the Persian Gulf conflict. Those losses, together with the losses resulting from a deceleration in world trade and economic growth, affected adversely economic growth rates, internal price stability and the external balance of payments of most developing countries in the region, especially of the major labour-exporting and oil-importing countries.

160. The Commission noted with satisfaction that notwithstanding those difficulties, the developing countries of the region had managed to sustain a rate of economic growth in 1990 that was higher than the world average, and the region's image as a dynamic force in the world economy remained untarnished. However, the Commission expressed deep concern at the uneven distribution of growth and development in the region, and particularly the stagnation or the highly unstable patterns of growth in the region's least developed and small Pacific island countries, in some of which the economic situation had deteriorated over the years. The volatility of oil prices, the continuing decline in prices of non-oil primary commodities, insufficient international capital inflows and high levels of indebtedness, along with environmental degradation, were among the major factors inhibiting their sustained development.

161. The Commission drew particular attention to the persistent problems and challenges and the unfinished tasks of development that the developing countries of the region still faced, despite the progress they had achieved thus far. The widespread prevalence of poverty and growing environmental degradation were singled out as areas of major concern. The need for human resources development as a means to improve the quality of life, upgrade skills and increase productivity was also emphasized.

162. The Commission stressed the need for adjusting policies at the national and international levels to create conditions conducive to the continued growth and development of developing countries in the ESCAP region. In that connection, it took note of the ongoing processes of reform and the liberalization measures being taken by many developing countries in the region. Those measures included fiscal reforms and administrative deregulation, increasing the role of the private sector in the economy. The Commission emphasized the need for maintaining the momentum of the process of reform, restructuring and adjustment in order to keep pace with the rapid changes taking place in the world economic environment and to compete effectively in increasingly efficient world markets.

163. The Commission reiterated the continuing need for international efforts to improve the international economic environment. In particular, it emphasized the importance of bringing the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations to a successful conclusion in a balanced and equitable manner, taking fully into account the special needs and circumstances of development of the developing countries. Liberalization and meaningful commitment in the area of trade in agriculture, textiles and tropical products, along with reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers, were urgently required to stem the growing protectionist threat to world trade and to the trade-oriented economies of the ESCAP region.

164. The Commission viewed with considerable concern the growing trend towards the emergence of exclusive trading blocs. That trend ran counter to the interests of all countries in the ESCAP region, which had relied on external trade and had hoped for its further liberalization as a dynamic element in their economic development.

165. Many delegations emphasized the need for increased flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing countries to enable them to implement successfully the reform and restructuring programmes that they had initiated. The Commission emphasized the need to resolve the debt problem of developing countries, for which efforts thus far had fallen considerably short of desired goals. It also stressed the need to take into account the problem encountered by those countries which were currently not regarded as seriously indebted but whose debt burdens none the less were serious.

166. The Commission supported efforts to strengthen regional cooperation for development in the Asian and Pacific region. Those efforts could yield substantial benefits, especially to the weaker developing countries. The Commission identified a number of areas for cooperation among the countries of the region, such as trade, investment, technology transfer, environmental protection and human resources development.

167. The Commission took note of the useful role played by ESCAP in promoting economic and technical cooperation in the region. In that context, it considered timely and useful, in particular with a view to regional cooperation, the secretariat's study on industrial restructuring, currently before the Commission. Such restructuring could be used as a means to intensify regional economic and social cooperation.

168. The Commission observed that ESCAP should play a greater role in, and focus attention on, forging closer cooperation among its members and associate members.

169. The Commission took note of the secretariat study on infrastructure development contained in part two of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1990*. The Commission noted, *inter alia*, the severe shortage and uneven distribution of physical and social infrastructure in a large part of the ESCAP region. In some countries, the fast rate of economic growth, including urbanization, had overburdened the infrastructure and outstripped the pace of its development, while slower growth in other economies had prevented the provision of needed overhead facilities and services.

170. The Commission noted that that shortage was particularly acute in most low-income, least developed, and Pacific island countries. Many of those economies were additionally handicapped by a highly limited supply of skilled human resources and recurrent budget allocations, as well as by difficult terrain and physical insularity, which increased the costs of such infrastructure development. At the same time, the rural sectors of most developing countries of the ESCAP region had generally lagged behind considerably in economic and social infrastructure development, relative to their needs as well as to the urban areas.

171. The wide-ranging impact of infrastructure shortage was emphasized by the Commission. The inadequate development of basic economic and social overhead facilities had had an adverse impact on poverty alleviation, human resources development, and the protection of vulnerable social groups, and had contributed to resource depletion and environmental degradation. The close interdependence between infrastructure development and overall development implied that infrastructure development had to be viewed as integral to the process of sustainable economic growth and structural transformation.

172. The Commission recognized the need to take into account the impact of major infrastructure systems on the environment. In that connection, it was considered important that environmental impact assessment be incorporated in relevant infrastructure projects and that the "polluter-pays" principle, often applied within a country, be extended to the regional and international levels.

173. The Commission recognized that despite the increasing role of the private sector, Governments would have to continue to play a supportive role in the provision of infrastructure development. The indiscriminate application of the market pricing mechanism had particularly to be guarded against in order to ensure the fulfilment of the basic needs of weaker social groups.

174. The Commission viewed appropriate legal and institutional infrastructure as important for the promotion of efficient growth and restructuring.

175. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 47/1 on the Seoul Declaration on Regional Cooperation.

Impact of some recent international developments on the economies of Asia and the Pacific and their development prospects

176. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/749 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/750 and Corr.1.

177. It noted that with the growing interdependence and integration into the world economy of many developing countries of the ESCAP region, the economic and social development of the region was increasingly influenced by major international events.

178. The Commission noted that the end of the cold war and the easing of East-West tension had raised expectations of enhanced international cooperation and possible benefits accruing from a peace dividend. Those factors, however, had failed so far to make a significantly favourable impact on the world economy. At the same time, since the hoped-for successful completion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations had not materialized in Brussels in December 1990, the potential impact on world trade remained uncertain. Nor had the developments in Eastern Europe and the quickening pace of integration in the European Economic Community added much to the buoyancy of the world economy. The situation was exacerbated by the world economy being severely affected by the rise in oil prices and other economic disruptions caused by the Persian Gulf crisis.

179. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 47/6 on assistance to the countries in the Asian and Pacific region affected by the Persian Gulf crisis.

180. The Commission noted that many developing economies of the ESCAP region had close links with the Persian Gulf region. It was a major source of oil supply, an area of substantial employment opportunities and a source of remittances, as well as a growing market for exports. Thus a major disruption in the Persian Gulf region was bound to have an important bearing on those economies.

181. The impact of the Persian Gulf conflict had been felt in a variety of ways. Higher oil prices that had resulted from the crisis necessitated higher oil import bills. Loss of remittances and reduced export earnings had led to a fall in production, increasing

unemployment and decline in savings. The adverse effect on the balance of payments was thus keenly felt by many countries. Moreover, there was an added burden in the form of the economic and social costs of the major redeployment of returnees. As a consequence, several countries of the region were faced with the need to reduce government expenditure, and with economic slow-down, cut-backs in social sectors, growing poverty and a deteriorating balance-of-payments situation. The Commission expressed concern over the harsh economic situation and difficult problems of economic management faced by the affected countries of the region.

182. On account of their greater vulnerability to outside economic forces, the least developed and island developing countries had been particularly hard hit by the Persian Gulf conflict. The inflationary impact of higher oil prices had placed a serious burden on those economies. In addition, the tourist industry, which was an important source of foreign exchange earnings for those economies, had been severely affected. Some delegations stated that the increase in transport costs fuelled by higher oil prices had fallen disproportionately on poor communities in remote areas.

183. The Commission noted that developing countries affected by the conflict had little room for manoeuvre and their options were limited. The difficulties, moreover, arose at a time when most of them were engaged in the process of introducing far-reaching reforms to improve the viability of their economies. The view was expressed by a number of delegations that relief measures should be implemented to provide balance-of-payments support through multilateral arrangements and assistance for the rehabilitation of repatriated workers. Furthermore, the secretariat was urged to identify ways and means to assist the affected countries in the region, and measures to help prepare a framework for a coordinated international response to that problem.

184. The Commission, however, noted that prospects for stable oil prices were much brighter with the early restoration of peace in the Persian Gulf region. Nevertheless, the Persian Gulf conflict and the associated oil shock had highlighted uncertainties in the world economy and had emphasized the need for sensible and cogent domestic policies and enhanced economic cooperation for economic and social development.

185. The Commission also took note of the possible impact on the region of the dramatic changes taking place in Eastern Europe and the USSR. It was hoped that the positive effects of those developments would ultimately outweigh any negative consequences that might arise in the short run. The opinion was also expressed that it was difficult to assume that the increased allocation of aid to Eastern Europe would not affect resource flows to the ESCAP region adversely.

186. The major donor countries represented at the session assured the Commission that additional assistance channelled to Eastern Europe would not be at the expense of the development needs of the developing countries of the ESCAP region.

Industrial restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, in particular with a view to strengthening regional cooperation

187. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/751 and the comprehensive background study ESCAP(XLVII)/INF.3 for its consideration.

188. The Executive Secretary, introducing the theme topic under agenda item 5, mentioned that industrial restructuring was essentially a long-term multi-dimensional process influenced by several factors. In that context, national policies, the global and regional economic situation and events, the mobility of capital and technology, and access to markets were significant in directing the course of industrial restructuring. Furthermore, the harmonization of trade, investment and technological policies, not only at the national level but also at the subregional and regional levels, would further set the course of the industrial restructuring process.

189. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the newly industrializing economies of Asia were moving towards import of labour-intensive manufactured goods and export of capital goods and provision of financial services to other economies of the region. The performance of the ASEAN-4 (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand) had also been remarkable in moving increasingly towards the export of light manufactures and other labour-intensive goods. While that dynamic process was noteworthy, several economies of the region were experiencing continuing macro-economic imbalances. The prolonged constraints in achieving industrial competitiveness had created hindrances in their industrial growth, with higher production costs, underutilized capacity and low technological levels. The region's least developed and island developing economies had been facing enormous difficulties in developing a meaningful industrial and technological base; its centrally planned economies had recently adopted policies and measures to transform their manufacturing production base in ways commensurate with their competitive advantage.

190. Governments in the region had played an important role in directing the course of industrial restructuring, pursuing different policies and strategies. While government would continue to play a very effective role in that process, there was an evident trend to limit its role to the creation of infrastructure and other support facilities to promote greater involvement of the private sector. While government was expected to play a larger role in weaker economies, its overriding concern could be the formulation of stable economic policies, creating an appropriate investment climate, developing well-functioning institutions, and building a national consensus on key economic and social issues.

191. The Executive Secretary emphasized that the upgrading of technological levels and appropriate policies and programmes for human resources development were the basic prerequisites for attaining any meaningful industrial restructuring. Despite the growing realization that the economies of the region should intensify their efforts towards human resources development, a large number of economies were

unable to do so owing to the inadequacy of resources at the national level.

192. The secretariat's comprehensive study had looked into those major issues, and had critically evaluated the prospects for promoting small and medium-scale industries having appropriate linkages with large industries in facilitating industrial restructuring; considerations of energy requirements for industrial growth and restructuring; and the issues and prospects for promoting domestic and foreign investments. The study had evolved a comprehensive set of recommendations as guidelines for national policy reorientations as well as for strengthening regional cooperation in promoting industrial restructuring.

193. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the draft plan of action for promoting industrial restructuring in Asia and the Pacific annexed to document E/ESCAP/751 had been formulated taking into account the needs and requirements of the developing members and associate members and on the basis of consultations with experts on the subject. The economies of the region had experienced uneven economic and industrial growth. That uneven pattern of growth and rapid changes in economic and technological situations had necessitated cooperative action to accelerate the pace of industrialization with overall improvement in industrial competitiveness. He urged the members and associate members of the Commission to give due consideration to the plan of action.

194. The Commission commended the secretariat's effort in preparing the comprehensive document and the background study. It felt that the background study had generally covered the major issues and the underlying domestic and external impulses affecting the industrial restructuring process in the region. The Commission observed that document E/ESCAP/751 had suggested concrete measures for promoting and strengthening regional cooperation in order to facilitate the industrial restructuring process in economies of the region.

195. The Commission noted with interest the various measures adopted and the progress achieved in restructuring the industrial sector in several economies of the region. It emphasized that the progress in overall industrial development and structural changes within manufacturing depended on the national policies pursued, and timely policy reforms enacted to meet the challenges and opportunities arising out of the changing global and regional economic situations. The Commission observed that industrial restructuring could be greatly facilitated through regional cooperation, especially by promoting complementarity between economies and expanding the process of integration of the national and regional economies into the global framework. In that context, the role of Japan and of the newly industrializing economies of the region was considered to be crucial in determining the pattern of geographical location of industrial activities among economies. However, in that process, due recognition would have to be given to the need to promote the mechanisms of fair and free market competition on a continuous basis. Due consideration should also be given at the national level to the achievement of meaningful structural changes in the industrial sector through national policy reorientation. In that context, the Commission pointed out that there was a need not only to improve the quality of the policy interventions but also to maintain stability in economic policies. The Commission was of the opinion that the liberalization and deregulation of the economies would promote efficient and competitive industrial structure, improve resource utilization and enhance the overall competitiveness of the manufacturing sector.

196. The Commission was of the view that globalization of trade and production activities would intensify during the decade of the 1990s. In that process, the labour cost component was expected to decline in importance in the production of manufactured goods as a result of the rapid changes in technology. In that context, if the share of primary commodities in the manufactured output diminished, the comparative advantages of the developing economies would change. The Commission pointed out that future industrial growth and structural changes in individual economies would increasingly depend on how they could become integrated into global and regional economies with new approaches aimed at improving competitiveness rather than relying on resource endowments. The international movement of production facilities in the future would therefore depend on the availability of skilled human resources and prospects for higher productivity and profitability rather than on wage levels.

197. The Commission noted that industrial restructuring had been more rapid in recent decades than in the past. It pointed out that the major contributory factors had been the rapid technological development, changing demand patterns and increased competition among industries, with shorter product cycles and new products being developed continuously.

198. The Commission also noted that while looking into the various facets of industrial restructuring, it was necessary to give due recognition to the importance of the construction and mining subsectors, which were potential targets for increased cooperation among economies both within and outside the region.

199. The Commission pointed out that government had played and would continue to play a crucial role in industrial development and restructuring. However, the organizational and informational problems associated with direct government participation in the economies had induced many countries to search for alternative means to allocate resources. Markets with varying degrees of government participation were emerging as alternative institutional mechanisms, along with which reorientation towards a more market-based industrialization strategy and promotion of the private sector were receiving increasing acceptance in most of the economies. The Commission emphasized that government should spend more resources on poverty alleviation, human resources development and infrastructure development. While the role of government could be necessary in the development of industries displaying increasing returns to scale in certain developing economies, the major concern of government should be to create a conducive environment through the provision of stable economic policies and the promotion of individual initiatives for industrial growth.

200. The Commission emphasized that industrialization and trade policies were complementary and had to be carefully synchronized to achieve successful industrial restructuring. It was pointed out that internationally competitive industries could not be developed without an open multilateral trading system. The Commission recommended that the economies of the region should constantly work towards the maintenance of an open trading system. It noted with interest the various import liberalization measures pursued by several economies of the region and pointed out that in order to benefit from that emerging trend, the developing countries of the region should make every endeavour to improve the quality of their exportable manufactures. The Commission expressed concern over the uncertainties of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and urged all member countries to work collectively towards its success.

201. The Commission was of the view that the role of domestic and foreign financing institutions was of paramount importance in industrial restructuring. At a time when developing economies were facing great difficulties in increasing domestic resource mobilization and international financial flows were becoming tighter, there was a compelling necessity to search for innovative approaches to industrial financing at the global, regional and national levels. The Commission emphasized the need to strengthen measures aimed at assisting the developing economies in developing capital markets. It felt that regional and global organizations could strengthen their activities in facilitating the development and strengthening of the regional capital markets.

202. The Commission felt that regional and subregional initiatives were necessary to promote foreign direct investment. It emphasized that foreign direct investment flows not only provided additional capital and access to new technologies but also developed management capabilities and enhanced the skill levels in the host countries. It was important for countries aiming at attracting foreign investment to ensure that the climate was right for investors to be able to operate successfully and thereby realize the two-way benefit of foreign investment. The Commission requested the secretariat to examine the problems, issues and prospects related to increasing the flows of foreign investment in the ESCAP region. In that context, it was suggested that a comprehensive study be undertaken with the objective of promoting intraregional and interregional investment flows. The Commission also directed the secretariat to strengthen its investment promotion activities and initiate special measures to promote foreign investment in the least developed economies.

203. The Commission emphasized that the upgrading of technology with effective technology transfer would be one of the important determinants for industrial restructuring. It was of the view that technology and human resources development were two major factors in guiding the industrial restructuring process. In that respect, it emphasized that the international agencies should strengthen their activities in assisting the developing economies in promoting technology transfer and expediting human resources development activities. It especially emphasized the necessity for increased assistance in developing the industrial skills needed in order to meet the demands arising out of the adaptation and absorption of new and modern technologies. It therefore felt that the regional institutions and regional activities aimed at promoting technology transfer and development should be strengthened. It felt that activities related to flexible training and retraining were essential at both the national and regional levels. Priority should be accorded to training, exchange visits and sharing of experience for research and development personnel. Furthermore, regional networks of research and development institutions could be promoted to facilitate the undertaking of joint research and development programmes aimed at meeting the specific needs of developing economies. Regional initiatives were also necessary for developing industrial consultancy, engineering and design and other technical services.

204. The Commission pointed out that the developing economies of the region were encountering acute shortages and problems related to adequate provision of energy for industrial development and restructuring. The limited availability of foreign exchange and the increasing cost of energy had further compounded the problems of energy supply. It therefore felt that the development of energy for industrial use was a promising area for regional cooperation. The secretariat should strengthen its activities related to energy conservation in industry, assistance in the development of new and renewable sources of energy, and energy provision, especially for small and medium-scale industries.

205. The Commission noted with interest the activities of the various United Nations bodies and agencies in the fields of economic and industrial development, in particular the central role of UNIDO in the promotion of industry. It especially felt that the priority themes identified by UNDP for promoting regional cooperation and the overall development process in Asia and the Pacific were relevant and timely. The thematic areas such as economic reform, human development and natural resources management, as identified by UNDP, were of prime importance to the developing economies of the region. Managing economic reforms, in particular the transition from a guided economy to a more decentralized one, would demand a combination of responses, including macro-economic and sectoral policy reforms and adjustments at the enterprise level. Exchange of experience and identification of strategies common to several economies of the region could provide valuable information to economic decision makers in both the public and the private sectors. In that context, promoting harmony among trade, investment and industrial policies, gaining access to competitive technologies and learning how to market goods and services effectively were of paramount significance. Accordingly, the Commission urged UNDP to provide assistance, on a priority basis, which would facilitate the above activities at the national, subregional and regional levels. Assistance related to promoting regional cooperation for industrial restructuring was considered to be of high priority.

206. The Commission noted with appreciation the cooperative spirit shown by the United Nations organizations and agencies in strengthening various regional cooperation measures to facilitate the industrial restructuring process in the region. It especially noted with appreciation the constructive

views expressed by UNDP, ILO and UNIDO. In view of resource constraints and to avoid possible duplication of efforts, the Commission emphasized that those organizations should coordinate their activities at the global, regional and national levels.

207. Welcoming the various measures suggested for strengthening regional cooperation for industrial restructuring in the region, the Commission recommended that the secretariat should pay special attention to assisting the weaker economies of the region, such as the least developed and island developing economies.

208. Recognizing that accessibility to the market was a prime factor, the Commission recommended that every effort should be undertaken to analyse the problems and issues related to making industrial restructuring more market-oriented. It also felt that special efforts should be made to examine the problems and issues related to capacity utilization in existing industries.

209. The Commission felt that economic and technical cooperation among developing countries of the region could facilitate the restructuring of the industrial sector. It therefore recommended that innovative ideas should be evolved in the plan of action to promote such cooperation among developing economies so as to facilitate the future course of industrial restructuring.

210. The Commission welcomed the draft plan of action on industrial restructuring annexed to document E/ESCAP/751 and considered that the plan had generally covered the critical problem areas requiring the special attention of members and associate members. The Commission recommended that further discussions on the plan of action should be held at a subsequent meeting of senior officials to be convened by ESCAP, and the report of that meeting presented to the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, scheduled to be held at Tehran early in 1992, for its consideration. It further directed the secretariat to present the outcome of the Meeting of Ministers, with regard to the plan of action, to the Commission at its forty-eighth session.

211. The Commission felt that the regional cooperation measures as outlined in the plan of action should give due emphasis to the development of and cooperation among small and medium-scale industries, as well as ways and means to promote their linkages with large industries in the context of industrial restructuring.

212. Several delegations were of the opinion that the plan of action should also recommend measures to assist the transition of centrally planned economies to market-oriented economies in their countries, and recommended that it could include measures to improve the technical and managerial efficiency of public sector industries, privatization measures, and the upgrading of the technological levels of those industries.

213. The Commission felt that the plan of action should also include concrete measures for dissemination of information on technology availability. In that respect, it felt that a technology information data centre could be established within the secretariat to facilitate information flows on technology availability; training programmes for assessment of technologies could be organized through such a centre.

214. The Commission observed that industrial restructuring was linked with other sectors, especially the agriculture and service sectors. Accordingly, the Commission recommended that due consideration should be given to strengthening intersectoral linkages in promoting effective industrial restructuring.

215. The Commission was of the view that the restructuring exercise and the structural adjustment measures could result in certain short-term social costs, and therefore suggested that the plan of action could include recommendations for minimizing such social costs in the process of industrial restructuring.

216. The Commission welcomed the plan of action and decided to designate it the "Seoul Plan of Action on Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific".

217. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 47/2 on the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific.

International initiatives in the field of economic and social development

International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (1991-2000)

218. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/752.

219. It took note of the major goals of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, which included economic growth and accelerated development in the developing countries and strengthened international cooperation. Accelerated development, however, should be directed towards the improvement of the human condition by the adoption of measures to alleviate poverty and develop human resources, and to arrest degradation of the environment. The Commission agreed that the achievement of the goals of the Strategy required the sustained strength and stability of the world economy and improvement in the current international system of money, finance and trade to support the development process.

220. The Commission observed that the Strategy for the Fourth Decade had been adopted against the backdrop of lack of fulfilment of the targets set in the Strategy for the Third Decade, and the new Strategy did not contain any specific target. Nevertheless, the Commission emphasized that the implementation of the Strategy should be pursued vigorously at all levels, national, regional and international.

221. The Commission emphasized that the international organizations would have to assume a major responsibility in the crucially important task of implementation of the Strategy. The organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, especially the regional commissions, should play a role in reviewing and appraising the progress of implementation of the

Strategy. The Commission therefore urged the ESCAP secretariat to undertake an annual review of the Strategy at the regional level. The four major goals for the Strategy in the ESCAP region, intensified social development focused on poverty alleviation, environmental protection, accelerated economic development and strengthened regional cooperation, as contained in the secretariat document, were endorsed by the Commission as being appropriate subjects for monitoring, implementation and follow-up action by the secretariat.

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s: follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

222. The Commission had before it for consideration the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1990* (ST/ESCAP/949) which, *inter alia*, described the macro-economic performance of the least developed countries and the Pacific island developing countries, in part one, and selected policy issues in infrastructure development in those countries, in part two; and documents E/ESCAP/753 and Add.1 and 2 entitled "Report on the secretariat's activities in support of the implementation in the ESCAP region of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s".

223. The Commission noted with concern that in sharp contrast to the mostly high rates of growth in the developing countries, in general, economic growth in the least developed countries remained weak and unstable, lacking any significantly positive trends, and they were far from attaining the agreed annual target growth rate of 7.2 per cent set in the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries. Those characteristics reflected the basic structural weaknesses of the least developed countries and their lack of human, material and financial resources. Of late, the increasing incidence of natural calamities inflicting serious damage had added to the continuing structural problems faced by those countries.

224. The Commission further noted that the target of the Substantial New Programme of Action for raising significantly the ODA (official development assistance) flows from developed countries to 0.15 per cent of their GNP (gross national product) generally remained unfulfilled. While some donors had achieved that target or doubled their ODA, the average contribution represented only 0.09 per cent of GNP.

225. The Commission noted with appreciation the adoption of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s by broad consensus at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1990, and its endorsement by the General Assembly. The Commission lauded the aim of the Programme of Action to arrest deterioration in the socio-economic situation of those countries, to reactivate and accelerate their growth and development and, in the process, to set them on the path of sustained growth and development.

226. The Commission noted with appreciation the action taken by a number of developing countries to extend assistance to the least developed countries within the framework of ECDC/TCDC (economic and technical cooperation among developing countries). It was, however, felt that developed countries and international financial institutions should provide increased resources to enable the developing countries of the region to intensify their assistance activities for the least developed countries within that framework. It was also hoped that the ECDC/TCDC activities would be operational rather than promotion-oriented so as to enable the least developed countries to derive the optimum benefit from them.

227. The Commission noted that the Programme of Action had called upon the regional commissions to address, as part of their ongoing programme of work and priorities, the needs and problems of the least developed countries and to continue to contribute to the follow-up process. In particular, the regional commissions were asked to organize cluster meetings, preferably every two years, in order to improve and strengthen existing cooperation arrangements between the least developed countries and other developing countries at the regional and subregional levels, and to review and monitor progress in that regard in coordination with UNCTAD.

228. The Commission noted with appreciation that in compliance with its resolutions 271 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 and 46/4 of 13 June 1990, the secretariat had undertaken preparatory work for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the regional level, with financial support from the Governments of Australia, France, Japan and the Netherlands. It also expressed appreciation to the Government of France for hosting the Conference in Paris.

229. The representative of Japan stated that his Government planned to organize a Tokyo forum on least developed countries as a follow-up of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

230. The representative of UNCTAD gave a report on the activities being carried out in response to the Programme of Action and reaffirmed the continued cooperation of UNCTAD with ESCAP in the review, follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action at the regional level.

231. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 47/4 on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations

232. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/754 relating to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. It felt that the document provided a useful and comprehensive overview of the Uruguay Round, its main issues and the progress to date.

233. The Commission observed that the Uruguay Round represented the most ambitious and comprehensive attempt yet to liberalize world trade and to restore and strengthen the efficacy of GATT rules and disciplines for world trade. It was therefore of the unanimous view that an early and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round was of critical importance in order to secure a more predictable and equitable international trading order. The stakes for the region, particularly for the developing countries, were even greater in view of the fact that a number of them had adopted outward-oriented policies as a strategy for their economic development and in view of the growing interdependence of their economies. The Commission therefore expressed satisfaction that the Round was back on track and negotiations had been resumed in all sectors.

234. The Commission held the view that should the ongoing efforts to reform the world trading system not succeed, the failure would perpetuate protectionist policies and lead to an even more difficult and restrictive trading environment characterized by administered trade, unilateral measures and retaliation. It could also lead to fragmentation of the world into inward-looking trading blocs, pursuing their narrow domestic interests to the detriment of the growth of the trade and economy of the world, to which their own long-term interests were also inextricably linked. While expressing clear preference for a more stable open multilateral trading system, the Commission recognized that, for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, it was imperative for all negotiating parties to adopt a more pragmatic approach backed by the necessary political will and spirit of compromise, especially in critical areas such as market access, agriculture, textiles and clothing, trade in services and intellectual property rights.

235. The Commission noted the concern expressed by a number of representatives over the slow progress in negotiations in some areas of vital interest to them, such as textiles and clothing, market access, agriculture, tropical products and safeguards, especially as those were also areas of particular interest to most developing countries. The need to bring textiles and agriculture fully under the rules and disciplines of GATT was emphasized by many delegations.

236. The Commission expressed hope that the Uruguay Round would culminate in a balanced agreement, consistent with the needs of all countries, especially the development needs of developing countries, particularly with respect to the new issues, in order to ensure fair and equitable trade relations between the developed and developing countries. There was general consensus that a non-discriminatory multilateral trading system remained the *sine qua non* for the sustained growth of the trade and economy of the world.

237. The representative of GATT informed the Commission that negotiations had been resumed in all sectors and, while no target date had been fixed, the intention was that the Uruguay Round should be concluded as soon as possible. The Commission welcomed the offer of GATT to continue cooperation with ESCAP in meeting the requests of developing countries for technical assistance, both during the resumed negotiations and after their conclusion.

Reports of legislative committees, and review of the work of the Commission and ESCAP regional institutions, including programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993

238. The Commission had before it the reports of the Committee on Population and Social Development, the Committee on Trade and the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications, which had met during the year prior to the forty-seventh session. It also considered various issues pertaining to the work of the Commission, the draft programme of work and priorities for 1992-1993, programme changes for 1991, the progress reports on the implementation of relevant resolutions and the reports on ESCAP regional institutions.

239. Major issues considered included: (a) enhancement of participation of the rural poor in development; (b) formulation of an agricultural development strategy for the least developed countries in the 1990s; (c) a regional strategy and the regional input to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; (d) preparations for the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology; (e) urbanization; (f) strengthening of regional cooperation in trade and finance; (g) socio-economic effects of tourism; (h) energy and natural resources; (i) strategies and recommendations in fulfilling the objectives of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in the ESCAP region; (j) preparations for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, 1992 and multidisciplinary regional population strategies for the 1990s; (k) organization and management of statistical services and the use of modern computing technology; (l) social aspects of rural development; (m) recommendations of the Meeting of Senior Officials on Drug Abuse Issues in Asia and the Pacific; (n) regional follow-up of the World Conference on Education for All - Meeting Basic Learning Needs; (o) preparations for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, 1991; (p) integration of women in development; (q) implementation of Commission resolution 274 (XLIV) on the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP region; (r) viability and cost-effectiveness of establishing a regional inland water transport centre in Bangladesh and the alternatives of strengthening the secretariat or using a network approach; (s) ESCAP/ITU/APT joint plan of action in telecommunications; and (t) a programme of action on economic and technical cooperation between the least developed and other developing countries.

240. The Commission reviewed the issues as reflected below.

Overview of the programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993

241. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/755, E/ESCAP/756 and E/ESCAP/757, as well as E/ESCAP/818 and ESCAP(XLVII)/INF.1 for information. It examined the report on the implementation during 1990 of the programme of

work, 1990-1991, as presented in document E/ESCAP/757 as background for consideration of the future programme. The tentative calendar of meetings 1991/92 (E/ESCAP/756) was approved.

242. The Commission considered the general coverage of the overall draft programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993, the approach in its formulation, resource allocations among the subprogrammes and the proposed requirements for additional resources for the biennium. It was informed that the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) had convened an informal session to examine the draft programme just prior to the current session of the Commission.

243. It noted that the draft programme was the first biennial programme formulated within the framework of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. It recalled that the relevant part of the plan had been endorsed by the Commission at its forty-sixth session; the objectives and strategy of the plan stressed the importance of regional and intercountry cooperation and the full utilization of the multidisciplinary capabilities of the Commission in the formulation and implementation of the programme of work.

244. The Commission appreciated the efforts made by the secretariat in maximizing programme effectiveness through programme integration, and concentration and redeployment of resources. It noted that the two programmes, Transport I and II, had been merged into one subprogramme, as had the programmes Industrial development and Science and technology, and Natural resources and Marine affairs. For the new multidisciplinary subprogrammes, Human resources development, Women in development and Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, extensive interdivisional consultations had taken place at the formulation stage and emphasis had been placed on multidisciplinary teamwork through the increased use of available expertise in the various divisions. In that context, the view was expressed that the multidisciplinary approach should not detract from the focus on the development issues of the region, particularly in view of the call for the strengthening of regional cooperation in development efforts.

245. With regard to resource implications, several delegations considered that the additional resources proposed were necessary for the full implementation of the proposed programme of work and to enable the Commission to respond effectively to the pressing development challenges of its members and associate members. Some delegations felt that the current allocations of the United Nations budget were not commensurate with the development needs of the vast region served by the Commission, which contained more than half the world's population and, more significantly, three quarters of the world's poor. Some delegations believed, however, that the substantial levels of extrabudgetary support that ESCAP received offset any relative resource deficiency in the regular budget posts. One delegation observed that the size of the secretariat did not necessarily correspond to the quality or impact of the work programme.

246. The Commission observed that despite its expanded activities in response to the increasing global and regional mandates of the Commission over the past years, no commensurate increases had been accorded in terms of regular budget personnel. On the contrary, the secretariat had lost 19 posts in 1988 as a result of the United Nations staff reduction exercise.

247. Cognizant of the programme budget outline for 1992-1993 adopted by the General Assembly, which indicated a level of 0.4 per cent growth for the regional commissions, several delegations cautioned that it would not be realistic to expect significant increases in posts for the Commission. Those delegations indicated that they were not in a position to support the call for additional posts. In that regard, some delegations stated that it was necessary further to redeploy staff both within the ESCAP secretariat and from other parts of the United Nations. The view was also expressed that in the allocation of resources the substantive work of the secretariat should take precedence over administrative services. The representative of the USSR expressed the view that the existing French language post planned to be redeployed to the Russian Language Unit might instead be redeployed to a substantive division to be filled by a Soviet national, where there was most need, if such an alternative was possible, in order to facilitate the redistribution of resources. One delegation observed that such redeployment was not possible from a legal point of view.

248. It was considered essential that, for maximum impact, resources should not be dissipated over too broad a range of activities. In that regard, it was suggested that the recommendations of the Group of Eminent Persons on Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission might provide a framework for further streamlining of activities. Some delegations noted that the meetings of the ESCAP legislative committees and other bodies and the discussions in the two committees of the Commission at the current session had also identified potential areas of resource savings.

249. After detailed examination of the work programme in its Committees of the Whole I and II, the Commission adopted the programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993 as proposed and as contained in annex I to the present report. Some delegations requested that the additional posts required to implement the work programme be acquired through redeployment. Other delegations expressed the view that if redeployment of resources from within ESCAP was not feasible, then the possibility of generating additional resources should be explored. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to convey the above decision through the Secretary-General to the General Assembly for its consideration in determining the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Issues in various fields of activity

Agriculture and rural development, including the Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

Agriculture and rural development

250. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/758, E/ESCAP/759 and E/ESCAP/807. It commended the secretariat on the high quality of those documents.

251. The Commission noted that agriculture remained an important sector in the economies of most of the developing countries of the ESCAP region, providing food and raw materials, income and employment to a large segment of the population, in spite of varying degrees of transformation in production structures related to agriculture, industry and services.

252. It recognized the importance of adopting sustainable agricultural systems using techniques such as conservation farming, which was based on rational soil and water management, particularly for marginal lands farmed by the poor. That technique ensured sustained productivity and could have a strong impact on poverty alleviation.

253. It noted the importance of financing agriculture and rural development programmes and expressed concern that only a relatively small share of public expenditure was being allocated to agricultural development.

Agricultural development in least developed countries

254. The Commission considered document E/ESCAP/759, and noted the practical and comprehensive approach adopted by the secretariat. It observed that the document would provide useful guidelines for evolving policies and strategies.

255. It recognized the critical role of agriculture in the least developed countries in providing people with food and employment opportunities. It noted the generally slow growth of agriculture, as well as the potential for accelerating its pace by adopting appropriate farming techniques.

256. It noted the importance for the development of agriculture of research and development, the provision of credit to farming communities, the development of infrastructure such as irrigation and marketing facilities and the adoption of improved farming practices, such as the use of high-yielding seed varieties and the application of fertilizer.

257. The Commission stressed that the development of parallel sectors, such as industry, linked with agriculture would ensure balanced growth. In that context, it noted the importance of developing human resources in various sectors.

258. The Commission noted that many of the problems in the agricultural sector in the least developed countries were similar to those in other developing countries. It further noted that the wide experience and expertise of other developing and developed countries, as well as of regional and international agencies, could be of assistance to the least developed countries in formulating their agricultural policies and strategies.

259. In endorsing the proposals contained in paragraphs 97 and 98 of document E/ESCAP/759, the Commission requested the secretariat to undertake in-depth studies in individual countries with a view to identifying appropriate policy options and strategies. Such strategies should be in line with the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1990. The Commission called for early implementation of the proposals. It was suggested that the proposed studies should be undertaken in consultation with relevant agencies.

260. The representative of the Netherlands, endorsing the proposal for individual studies, said that his Government might consider providing financial support for that purpose. The representative of Viet Nam requested the secretariat to undertake an in-depth study of her country, in line with the proposed studies in the least developed countries.

Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific

261. The Commission expressed strong support for the ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP) and for its continued work to promote the balanced and correct use of fertilizers through the dissemination of information, training programmes and advisory services. Those services had contributed significantly to the development of the fertilizer sector in most member countries in a cost-efficient manner. It fully endorsed the proposed activities of FADINAP, which was regarded as a well coordinated and successful example of inter-agency and intercountry cooperation.

262. The Commission expressed appreciation of the activities undertaken by the Network of Fertilizer Information Systems (NFIS) and in particular its organization of a regional training workshop on information repackaging with the generous assistance of the Government of Japan. It urged that such financial support be made available for the future activities of the Network. The representative of Japan informed the Commission that his Government was ready to consider making a financial contribution for FADINAP if there were any appropriate projects.

263. The Commission commended FADINAP on the organization of a regional symposium on fertilizer legislation, hosted by Viet Nam. It expressed appreciation of the usefulness of such an activity in evaluating the criteria for the establishment of fertilizer-related laws and regulations.

264. Several representatives noted with satisfaction the participation of their countries in the annual IFA (International Fertilizer Industry Association)-FADINAP Regional Fertilizer Conference for Asia and the Pacific. The Conference had been useful for assessing the current status of the fertilizer sector and for the exchange of pertinent information among the participating countries.

265. The representatives of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar requested further assistance from FADINAP in the future and expressed willingness to increase their participation in the Network's activities. The representative of Viet Nam expressed satisfaction at the completion of the study on the fertilizer sector of Viet Nam and requested further assistance for development of the fertilizer sector in her country.

266. The Commission took note of the study on the fertilizer sector of the Pacific island countries and requested FADINAP to make the completed study available to the member countries.

267. It endorsed the proposed project on environmentally-friendly fertilization, and considered the project appropriate and timely to prevent the misuse of fertilizer.

268. It expressed gratitude to the donor countries and agencies for providing continuous financial support to FADINAP and strongly urged them to continue their contributions in the future. The representative of the Netherlands expressed the hope that FADINAP would make the necessary efforts to become self-sustaining in the longer term, *inter alia*, through receiving increased contributions from recipient member countries.

Agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific

269. The Commission noted the significant contribution made by the agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific (ARSAP) in disseminating information on pesticides, as well as in promoting their safe handling and efficient use. It expressed the view that those activities should be strengthened because of the concern for the environment arising from the overuse of pesticides.

270. The Commission commended the *ARSAP/CIRAD Regional Agro-pesticide Index, Asia and the Pacific*, published annually, as a useful tool for implementation of the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and recommended continued close cooperation between the relevant organizations in that field.

271. It strongly endorsed the proposed project to establish a database on pesticides and the environment, for which funding was to be provided by the Commission of the European Communities.

272. The representative of Indonesia stated that his country would like to share its experience in implementing the principles of integrated pest management for the major food crops.

273. The representative of France expressed his Government's intention to give further support to ARSAP for consolidation of its activities in the field of computerized agro-pesticide information through the provision of two associate experts.

274. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Governments of France and the Netherlands and to the Commission of the European Communities for their support to ARSAP.

Development of agricultural information

275. The Commission noted the significant role that agricultural communication and information systems played in disseminating information on the role of farming practices in improving the socio-economic conditions of farmers. In that context, it appreciated the usefulness of the *Training Manual on Farm Broadcasting* produced by the secretariat, and noted that the manual was used in several national training programmes.

276. The Commission supported the establishment of a regional network for cooperation in agricultural and rural communication in view of the importance of communication for agricultural development. It was suggested that the establishment of the proposed network should depend on an assessment of the farm broadcasting activities of the secretariat.

277. The Commission recognized the high quality of the secretariat publication *Agricultural Information Development Bulletin* and also its usefulness in disseminating innovative agricultural information. It urged the secretariat to continue its publication and urged the donors to provide financial support for editorial services for the *Bulletin* on a long-term basis.

Satellite crop monitoring

278. The Commission expressed appreciation of the useful work done under the satellite crop monitoring project. It fully endorsed the findings and recommendations of the Regional Evaluation Seminar on Satellite Crop Monitoring, held in November 1990. The representatives of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam expressed their strong intention to participate in phase III of the project as it would complement their existing rainfall analysis system and facilitate flood early warning.

279. The Commission expressed appreciation to the donor country and agencies which had provided financial support to implement the project and urged them to provide financial resources to expand the project.

Utilization of agricultural residues and other biomass

280. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of its activities related to the use of surplus agricultural residues as an energy source for productive activities, in which many developing countries were participating with financial and technical assistance initially from UNDP and lately from the Governments of China and the Republic of Korea. Recognizing the potential role of locally available, renewable agro-residues and other biomass as an energy source in improving the socio-economic conditions of disadvantaged rural people, the Commission urged the secretariat to continue and expand such activities. They would help augment the rural energy supply in the face of the continuing depletion of forestry resources and help create additional rural income and employment, slow down rural-to-urban migration and conserve foreign exchange by reducing the import of oil.

281. The Commission was informed that with financial support from the Governments of China and the Republic of Korea, the Regional Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Gasification of Rice Husk and other Biomass had been held in China and the Republic of Korea in September 1990. Experts nominated by the Governments of the following countries had participated: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Seminar had reviewed the current status and future prospects of rice husk and other biomass gasification technologies, and had recommended priority follow-up action, including: (i) the organization of a regional workshop on human resources development for the utilization of agricultural residues as an energy source; (ii) the

establishment of a regional data bank on gasification of rice husk and other biomass; (iii) the preparation and distribution of a video film on gasification technology; (iv) the assessment and further development of gasification technology and standardization of technical parameters.

282. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Seminar-cum-Study Tour. The representative of Thailand expressed his country's willingness to provide host facilities for the establishment of a pilot plant for demonstration of the use of gasification of rice husk for generation of heat and electricity.

283. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Governments of China and the Republic of Korea for their generous financial and technical assistance and for the host facilities provided for the Seminar. It requested the Governments of China and the Republic of Korea and other donors to continue their financial and technical support to implement the activities recommended by the Seminar.

Participatory approach to integrated rural development and poverty alleviation

284. The Commission strongly endorsed the concept of a participatory approach to integrated rural development and in particular rural poverty alleviation. It stressed that such an approach should aim at facilitating effective and smooth implementation of agricultural projects and providing equitable benefits from development. The exchange of information among the member countries on various participatory methods and techniques would be useful, although the methods of enhancing people's participation differed from country to country.

285. The Commission was informed of various national programmes related to alleviating rural poverty. It was further informed that many such programmes followed a participatory approach because people's participation was an important element in the development process. Those programmes of a multidimensional and multisectoral nature had as their objective not only to accelerate the pace of poverty alleviation but in some cases to reduce regional imbalance in development.

286. Reiterating its earlier decision to accord top priority to poverty alleviation in its future programmes, the Commission called for an increase in the number of activities and projects to help the developing countries reduce their poverty problem. It requested the secretariat to expand activities related to the participation of the rural poor in the development process and fully endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraph 39 of document E/ESCAP/758.

287. The Commission noted the important role of non-governmental organizations in rural poverty alleviation. Such organizations could supplement governmental efforts and could be involved in planning, implementing and evaluating poverty-focused programmes.

288. The Commission noted the important role played by women in agriculture and rural development. The representative of UNIFEM emphasized the problems faced by women with regard to access to resources and services, and highlighted the need to resolve them.

289. The Commission appreciated the activities implemented under the United Nations Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific and called for the continuation of multisectoral and inter-agency activities. The programme of exchange of cadres under participatory rural development was found extremely useful and its continuation and expansion was requested. It was also requested that more activities related to on-farm and off-farm employment creation be undertaken in the future.

290. The Commission was informed of the progress of implementation of resolution 45/4 on the integrated programme on rural development. In pursuance of that resolution, a project on the promotion of rural employment generation, and another project on cooperation with non-governmental organizations, were currently under implementation.

291. The representatives of WHO and CIRDAP (Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific) apprised the Commission of the interest of their organizations in participating in inter-agency programmes on integrated rural development and rural poverty alleviation. The representative of WHO expressed the view that more regular, periodic meetings of the national liaison offices on integrated rural development would be useful. The representative of CIRDAP expressed the wish of the Centre to participate in the Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific as an observer.

292. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 47/5 on regional support for the alleviation of poverty.

TCDC activities

293. The Commission was informed of the beneficial TCDC activities undertaken by the secretariat in the field of agriculture and rural development. It called for the continuation and expansion of such activities in the future.

Programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993 and programme changes for 1991

294. The Commission considered document E/ESCAP/807 containing the secretariat's proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993 in the field of agriculture and rural development and programme changes for 1991. The secretariat informed the Commission that ACPR had examined the draft work programme at its informal session held in February 1991 and in line with the top priority assigned to that subprogramme by the Commission at its forty-sixth session had recommended the provision of additional staff to implement it.

295. The Commission fully endorsed the proposed work programme, 1992-1993 and programme changes for 1991. It suggested that focus should be given to activities which increased agricultural productivity and were interlinked with poverty alleviation.

296. In endorsing the work programme, the Commission recommended that appropriate resources should be allocated to that vital programme and that consideration should be given to the redeployment of resources within the secretariat as required. A number of delegations were of the view that a new Professional post, as proposed in the secretariat document, was required.

Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

297. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/760, which contained the report by the Governing Board of the CGPRT Centre regarding the implementation of the Centre's programmes in 1990. The Commission endorsed the report and expressed satisfaction with the progress of the Centre and its achievements during 1990.

298. The Commission acknowledged that research and development of CGPRT crops had gained in importance in recent years, as the demand for many of those commodities had been expanding with their increasing use as livestock feed and processed food, in addition to conventional use as staple food. It noted that research and development of CGPRT crops would help accelerate diversification of agriculture so as to benefit the producers, who were predominantly small farmers, and in that connection the role to be played by the Centre was becoming increasingly important.

299. The Commission was appreciative of the fact that in 1990 the Centre had continued to produce useful results and to present information and recommendations for the benefit of researchers, extension workers and policy makers involved with CGPRT crops in developing member countries. It also noted that the Centre had gradually prioritized the subject areas of its activities in response to the changing and emerging needs of developing member countries, while attaining a fair balance in a mutually supportive way among the three major programmes: research, information and documentation services, and human resources development. Moreover, the Commission expressed general satisfaction with the gradual expansion of the geographical coverage of the Centre's activities, so that they would have a greater impact on an increased number of member countries and people.

300. The Commission noted that in the course of programme implementation in 1990 the Centre had collaborated closely with the national research and development institutions of member countries in the region. It stressed that collaboration with other regional and international research and development institutes and agencies should be strengthened, to enhance their efforts and the impact of activities.

301. With regard to the major achievements of the Centre's research activities during 1990, the Commission was informed that the Centre had completed two research and development projects and implemented several others. It noted the Centre's continuous efforts at prioritization in such areas as employment and income generation, marketing and processing mechanisms, and technology transfer to producers, all relating to CGPRT crops. Many delegations expressed satisfaction at having participated in those projects and their intention to continue to do so in accordance with the importance given and priorities set by individual countries. Noting the salient findings and implications of the research, the Commission expressed the view that the results of such research should be applied to other countries, as appropriate and with the necessary adjustments. It requested the Centre to expand the activities of a regional or subregional nature so as to increase the number of beneficiaries and enlarge the coverage. In that connection, the Commission expressed appreciation to the Governments of France and Japan and to the Commission of the European Communities for their valuable support to the research activities.

302. Regarding the information and documentation services programme, the Commission noted with satisfaction that the programme supported by the Netherlands had been providing useful information regarding CGPRT crops to member countries. It was noted that a priority under that programme had been the establishment of a national and regional statistical database on CGPRT crops. In that respect, the Commission was informed that, after the successful completion of the preparatory phase for three countries, the project was currently entering a new phase with the participation of six additional countries.

303. The Commission acknowledged the considerable progress in the human resources development programme during 1990. Two workshops had been held under the programme: (i) the Regional Workshop on Increasing Soybean Production in Asia, held in Thailand; and (ii) the Regional Workshop on CGPRT Crop-based Small-scale Processing Industries: Their Effect on Employment and Income Generation in Rural Areas, held in the Philippines. It was noted that a total of 79 participants from nine developing member countries had attended those workshops.

304. The Commission was informed that the Governing Board, at its ninth session, had recommended that the draft strategic paper be developed into a strategic plan. It was suggested that the plan should be formulated, keeping in view the resources available to the Centre, which would enable the Centre to play its role of benefiting producers, processors and consumers involved in CGPRT crop development more effectively. Furthermore, the Commission endorsed the Board's recommendation that an external review be made of the Centre, giving particular attention to its past achievements and future direction, and the strengthening of the Centre's financial basis. The Commission was informed about the progress of preparation and the approximate timing of the exercise.

305. The Commission also was informed about the staffing and financial situation and estimated expenditure of the Centre during 1990. It was suggested that the Centre should engage a greater number of national experts. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Governments of France, Japan and the Netherlands for making expert services available. It also noted with appreciation that the Governments of Indonesia and Thailand had provided expert services for research projects.

306. The Commission further expressed appreciation to Governments and donor agencies for their extremely valuable contributions both in cash and in kind for the institutional support and programme resources of the Centre in 1990. The following Governments and agencies had provided financial and other assistance to the Centre's activities in 1990: Australia, Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand and the Commission of the European Communities, as well as UNDP through FAO.

307. The Commission recognized that the Centre's activities should be further expanded, in terms of both subjects and geographical areas, in response to the increasing needs and demands of developing member countries. At the same time, it noted that expansion of activities had been constrained by the limited availability of resources, particularly institutional support resources.

308. While the Commission acknowledged with appreciation the indications of new or increased contributions from a few developing countries, it urged all members and associate members to increase their contributions, or make new contributions, particularly the developing recipient countries with respect to the institutional support costs, in line with the guidelines set by the Commission at previous sessions. The Commission also asked developed countries and donor agencies to make the utmost effort to increase their contributions to the Centre's programmes.

309. The Commission elected the Governing Board of the CGPRT Centre, consisting of the host country, Indonesia, and the following 11 countries, for the three-year term ending at the time of the fiftieth session of the Commission in 1994: Bangladesh, France, Japan, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Development issues and policies

310. The Commission considered and endorsed the proposed programme of work and priorities on development issues and policies for the biennium 1992-1993, and the proposed programme changes for 1991, as contained in document E/ESCAP/761.

311. The Commission was in broad agreement with the main thrust of the proposed programme of work. It expressed support for the emphasis given to economic restructuring in the countries of the region and for the formulation and implementation of more effective policies and strategies to facilitate that process. It also felt that the stress given to economic reforms, including economic and financial liberalization and greater reliance on market forces for economic management, was in conformity with general trends in most countries of the region.

312. The Commission, however, noted that economic restructuring was a complex and multi-faceted process and, in view of the region's diversity, there was no single policy measure or a package of policy measures that would be appropriate for all countries. Obviously there was a need to take a medium- to long-term perspective on the matter and the phasing and emphasis given to particular measures in the policy reform package would necessarily vary among countries, as well as over time for each country. The need to take account of the social costs and environmental consequences of restructuring measures was also mentioned.

313. In the light of the complexities noted above, strong commitments on the part of Governments, as well as broad-based national consensus, appeared necessary for successful implementation of restructuring policies. That also implied the need for the formulation of more effective policies and increased capacity for their implementation. Those were areas in which ESCAP could play a useful role.

314. The Commission generally endorsed the high priority accorded to regional cooperation in the work programme on development issues and policies. The benefits to be derived from the growing complementarities among Asian and Pacific economies made regional cooperation a desirable objective to pursue in the years ahead. It was therefore recommended that measures to promote regional cooperation should form an integral part of the national plans of the countries of the region.

Energy, including the Regional Energy Development Programme and the Pacific Energy Development Programme

Energy

315. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/762, E/ESCAP/763, E/ESCAP/764 and E/ESCAP/808.

316. The Commission agreed with the secretariat's analysis in document E/ESCAP/762 on the medium-term strategy for regional energy cooperation. It was in full agreement with the topics for regional collaboration listed in that document.

317. The Commission noted that in view of the Persian Gulf crisis, the energy sector was again considered to be of the utmost concern to member countries and of high priority. It also noted that uncertainty in the oil price still prevailed, although it was currently back at the level of just before August 1990. The Commission expressed concern that the rural population continued to have less access to energy supplies than the urban population; the urban-rural equity imbalance remained to be addressed. It recognized that energy shortages were to be avoided in a situation of expanding demand; however, effective solutions in energy conservation were still to be disseminated and promoted. In that regard it felt that industries needed to adopt fuel substitution and technological innovations, while taking into account environmental considerations. Those were some of the areas in which, in the opinion of the Commission, exchanges of information and experience would enhance regional cooperation.

318. The Commission endorsed the following format for regional cooperation: (i) the commitment and active participation of member countries in the regional energy working groups; (ii) the ESCAP secretariat to act as regional focal point; and (iii) continued funding support from UNDP. Importance was placed on the participation in those working group

activities of professionals, not only from Governments of member countries but also from universities and from industry. The Commission also observed that contributions from member countries would be important for the successful formulation and implementation of regional cooperative activities.

319. The Commission adopted the subprogramme on energy, as contained in document E/ESCAP/808. One delegation suggested that exploration and development of large sources of energy should be given much more emphasis; oil substitution should be taken up more seriously by member countries, as oil was a non-renewable resource; and energy pricing should be taken up in the work programme. Some representatives expressed the opinion that during 1992-1993, ESCAP should place emphasis on new and renewable sources of energy and on the innovative mobilization of funds.

320. The Commission noted with appreciation the offers made by India of the use of training facilities on natural gas development to be set up in Delhi in 1991 by the Gas Authority of India Ltd., and by Indonesia of the services of an expert on rural energy planning for the benefit of the least developed countries.

321. The Commission expressed appreciation of the generous assistance provided by UNDP, and by Australia, France, Japan and some other countries, which enabled ESCAP to assist developing countries of the region in energy activities.

Regional Energy Development Programme

322. The Commission endorsed document E/ESCAP/763, the progress report on the Regional Energy Development Programme (REDP), which was updated during its introduction by the Senior Co-ordinator of REDP. It noted with satisfaction statements by delegations from REDP participating countries on the usefulness of the Programme and the positive impact it had had in enhancing the energy development and management capabilities of their energy sectors and in fostering self-sustaining intercountry cooperation among them through the establishment of the regional TCDC working groups. The representatives of China, India, Indonesia and Malaysia informed the Commission of their countries' active participation and contribution of manpower and financial support to promote energy development in the region through activities of the regional TCDC working groups on rural energy planning and development, energy conservation, natural gas development and electric power development, respectively. The representative of China expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the implementation of phase IV (1990-1991) of REDP during the period under review, and informed the Commission that the draft work programme for 1992-1996 of the regional TCDC working group on rural energy planning and development, as agreed by its members during the executive seminar and study tour held in China and Thailand in October-November 1990, was in the final stages of revision before being tabled at the fifth session of the Tripartite Review Conference of REDP scheduled to be held in August 1991. The representative of India stated that besides its readiness to make an in-kind contribution in the form of human resources, the Department of Power of the Government of India estimated that for participation in and hosting of the regional TCDC working group on energy conservation, a contribution of Rs 1,200,000 would be incurred. The Government of India had agreed to provide experts and host facilities for a meeting of the technical services subgroup of the regional TCDC working group on energy conservation to finalize the draft work programme for 1992-1996 of that working group, on the basis of an outline agreed by its members while attending the Regional Training Workshop on Energy Conservation in the Commercial and Domestic Subsectors, held at ESCAP headquarters in March 1991. The representative of Indonesia, which was the coordinator and host of the regional TCDC working group on natural gas development, reported that most activities of its associated REDP phase IV (1990-1991) subprogramme had been implemented, and that a draft work programme for 1992-1996 for that working group had been approved by its members during the executive seminar and study visits to Indonesia and New Zealand, held in February 1991. That draft work programme would also be tabled at the fifth session of the Tripartite Review Conference of REDP. The representative of Malaysia informed the Commission that besides contributing its expertise and other resources to REDP, Malaysia had benefited from its participation in the Programme. The representative of Malaysia felt that REDP was a vital programme for the development of the energy sector in the Asian region and that REDP had achieved many positive results, especially in the establishment of working groups, which had enhanced and fostered closer regional cooperation in energy. Malaysia, currently the coordinator of the regional TCDC working group on electric power development would, in 1991, host a training course on power system management, a regional workshop on economic load despatching and demand management in electric power system management, and a meeting of the regional TCDC working group on electric power development, which would formulate the draft work programme for 1992-1996 of that working group. The representative of Malaysia reconfirmed that Malaysia would also host the fifth session of the Tripartite Review Conference of REDP in August 1991. The representative of Sri Lanka stated that REDP had been the main activity implemented in the countries of the Asian region in the energy sector and that Sri Lanka would like to support the working groups in every way possible. The representative of Thailand cited his country's contribution in hosting the executive seminar and study tour under the subprogramme on rural energy planning and development, in November 1990, and said that Thailand would continue to support strongly the establishment of regional TCDC working groups initiated under REDP. The representative of Pakistan stated that REDP was an efficient mechanism for energy development in the regional context, and that the six working groups of REDP were a very effective and mutually beneficial concept, which would not only help the less developed countries of the region but also enhance the capabilities of the more developed countries. The representative of Nepal said that his country had been taking part in all REDP activities relevant to Nepal since the establishment of the Programme and expressed its wish to become a member of the regional TCDC working groups on energy planning, rural energy planning and development, energy conservation and electric power development. However, he emphasized his country's inability to contribute any fees to sustain the TCDC mechanism on account of its least developed country status. The representative of Bangladesh supported the

efforts of ESCAP to enhance regional cooperation through REDP, and the undertaking of effective follow-up activities of REDP for attaining environmentally sustainable development in the energy sector in the region. The representative of Viet Nam cited the wide participation of the Asian countries in the four phases of REDP from 1982 to 1991 as proof of its usefulness and validity; it therefore deserved continued support, in terms of both financial and human inputs. The representative of the Republic of Korea stated that his country attached great importance to REDP, had attended and actively participated in energy activities and would be willing to continue to do so in the future. It was the common view of all delegations that one of the basic parameters that had enabled REDP to serve a very useful purpose and to realize its achievements over the past 10 years had been the unstinted financial support provided by UNDP. The Commission noted that UNDP was pleased to have heard the interest in and appreciation of REDP by member Governments, and that it had been encouraged by the offers made by some Governments to provide counterpart support in order to ensure long-term sustainability of REDP activities.

323. The fourth session of the Tripartite Review Conference of REDP had been held from 28 to 30 August 1990, and had been attended by representatives of 13 developing countries of Asia participating in REDP, namely, China, India, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam, and representatives of Australia and France, ILO, FAO, UNIDO, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and the Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC). The Commission noted that, besides reviewing the status of implementation of phase IV (1990-1991) of REDP, the Tripartite Review Conference had, after extensive deliberations, adopted a resolution on continued support for REDP beyond 1991. The Commission also noted that the essence of that resolution, the text of which was contained in paragraph 10 of document E/ESCAP/763, was a unanimous appeal to UNDP to provide substantial funding support for REDP beyond 1991, and to continue support to and strengthen the existing coordinating mechanism of REDP. After extensive deliberations, the Commission endorsed the resolution of the fourth session of the Tripartite Review Conference of REDP, in its entirety.

324. The Commission noted that the representative of France had been impressed by the quality of statements made by the delegations of member countries during the fourth session of the Tripartite Review Conference when participating countries had been requested to increase their contributions, while UNDP had seemed to wish to reduce its support, thus creating problems as countries had not yet been ready to assume the administrative costs. The Commission noted with appreciation the efforts of the representative of France in seeking a much-needed compromise by expressing his country's appeal to UNDP not to reduce totally its contribution towards the coordinating mechanism of REDP, and to the participating countries to bear a fair share of the costs of such a mechanism through small contributions.

325. On the issue of continued support for REDP, the Commission noted the UNDP statement reiterating UNDP commitment to the issue of energy development in the region. It further noted that that commitment would continue into the fifth UNDP programming cycle (1992-1996) under the theme focus of environmental management. Under the environment theme, energy issues were likely to continue to receive priority attention, both in the area of conventional and of new and renewable sources of energy which were environmentally sustainable. The Commission also noted that UNDP support in the future might not be delivered in the same form as in the past four phases of REDP and that UNDP assistance in its current form must finish as scheduled. The Commission finally noted that the Governing Council of UNDP had insisted that after multiple-phase assistance, programmes and projects should become the responsibility of member Governments, especially with regard to institutional support.

326. The Commission expressed gratitude to UNDP for its support of the ongoing cycle (1987-1991) of REDP, and to the Governments of Australia, France and New Zealand for providing support to subprogramme activities on coal development, sectoral energy demand studies and natural gas development, respectively. It expressed thanks to the Governments of China, India, Indonesia and Malaysia for providing leadership, financial support and host facilities for the secretariats of the regional TCDC working groups on rural energy planning and development, energy conservation, natural gas development and electric power development, respectively. The Commission commended the REDP participating countries for their untiring efforts to achieve self-reliance in cooperative initiatives for energy development among themselves and with the assistance of interested cooperating donors beyond the current cycle, within the framework of the ESCAP approach in enhancing regional cooperation.

Pacific Energy Development Programme

327. The Senior Energy Planner, on behalf of the Project Manager of the Pacific Energy Development Programme (PEDP), introduced document E/ESCAP/764, the report on PEDP activities during 1990, and summarized activities carried out during 1991.

328. The Commission noted with appreciation that in addition to numerous assessments, workshops and training activities covering national energy planning, power sector planning in urban and rural areas and operation and maintenance of renewable energy systems in 15 countries, the project had taken a leading role in organizing the 12 comprehensive energy sector reviews in Pacific island countries which comprised the "Pacific regional energy assessment" carried out early in 1991 in collaboration with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It also noted that PEDP was preparing a draft report on each country included in the assessment, and an overview assessment of the subregion, which it would present jointly with the World Bank and ADB at a meeting of energy ministers to be held at Honolulu in July 1991.

329. The Commission took note that PEDP had been located in the same office as the Forum Secretariat Energy Division and its Regional Petroleum Unit for the whole of 1990. It also noted with appreciation that

the three bodies had adopted a joint work programme and relations between PEDP and the Forum Secretariat had continued to be excellent. The Commission was informed that the 1989 independent mid-term review of PEDP and Forum Secretariat energy activities had been considered by Prime Ministers during the Port Vila Forum in August 1990. It was also informed that that Forum had called upon UNDP to continue its support of Pacific regional energy activities during the 1992-1996 funding cycle, working with the restructured Forum Secretariat Energy Division. The Commission noted that a tripartite review of the project had been held in Tonga in conjunction with the Forum's annual regional energy meeting in September 1990; it had commended the continuing productivity of PEDP and had called for continued UNDP support during the next cycle, with emphasis on the power sector.

330. The Commission commended PEDP for its effectiveness and responsiveness to the needs of the Pacific island countries. It thanked UNDP for its past core support and its willingness to continue funding subregional energy activities in the 1992-1996 programming cycle. It also thanked the Governments of Australia, France and Japan, and the World Bank, ADB and the European Economic Community for their generous support to PEDP activities during the previous two five-year cycles. It expressed appreciation to the secretariat of the supportive role that ESCAP had played in executing the project, and looked forward to its continuing collaboration even though the project would now be executed by organizations within the region.

Human resources development, including implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region

331. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/765, E/ESCAP/766, E/ESCAP/778, E/ESCAP/788 and E/ESCAP/816. It commended the secretariat on the excellent quality of those documents and expressed satisfaction with the activities implemented by the secretariat in the field of human resources development.

332. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Population and Social Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/778), with special reference to those sections and paragraphs pertaining to human resources development.

333. The Commission welcomed the establishment of a separate intersectoral subprogramme on human resources development under the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. It approved subprogramme 5, Human resources development, of the proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993, as contained in document E/ESCAP/766.

334. The subprogramme provided for a systematic, multisectoral series of activities to be undertaken by the secretariat in establishing a strategic framework for the meaningful implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, adopted by the Commission in resolution 274 (XLIV) on 20 April 1988. All proposed activities in the subprogramme were based on specific legislative mandates and had been formulated in accordance with ongoing consultations with member and associate member Governments.

335. The Commission was informed that an important function of the subprogramme would be to provide technical assistance to countries of the region in their efforts to formulate and implement human resources development policies, plans and programmes. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action at both the national and regional levels would also be undertaken in line with the regional coordinating role of ESCAP.

336. The Commission was also informed that, in addition to the above, one of the unique functions of the subprogramme would be coordination of the sectoral human resources development activities being undertaken by other ESCAP subprogrammes in order to consolidate and ensure a coherent overall approach to promoting human resources development in the region. A further function of the subprogramme, in line with General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, would be to coordinate and encourage inter-agency cooperation in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action.

337. The Commission was informed that in addition to the activities concerning human resources development that were being implemented directly under subprogramme 5, Human resources development, the secretariat was increasingly integrating human resources development concerns into all sectoral subprogrammes. Activities being carried out on human resources development issues under other subprogrammes were cross-listed under subprogramme 5 in brackets and were being coordinated under that subprogramme.

338. The Commission noted that in order to permit the implementation of that new subprogramme, 12 regular budget work-months would be redeployed from subprogramme 11, Social development, and 24 new regular budget work-months were being requested in addition. In view of the urgent need to provide adequate resources to permit the implementation of the new subprogramme, many delegations proposed the addition of one regular budget post to the secretariat's existing resources.

339. The Commission noted with interest human resources development activities being implemented within the framework of the Jakarta Plan of Action by various United Nations bodies and agencies, including UNICEF, UNCHS, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, ICAO and WHO. It urged those agencies to continue, in the spirit of inter-agency cooperation, to undertake such activities in support of the objectives of the Jakarta Plan of Action.

340. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Governments of France, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and to UNDP, for their generous financial support of the secretariat's work in the field of human resources development. It noted with satisfaction that a number of donors were also generously supporting projects on human resources development-related topics being carried out by the secretariat under other

subprogrammes. It also noted with appreciation the contributions being made by various United Nations agencies and bodies, in particular ILO and UNESCO, to the implementation of the work programme of ESCAP in the field of human resources development.

341. The Commission reviewed document E/ESCAP/765 on the progress that had been achieved in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action. It voiced strong support for the integrated approach to human resources development being followed by the secretariat in line with the framework of the Jakarta Plan of Action. The Commission was of the view that that approach should serve as the critical underpinning for all national exercises related to human resources development. It pointed out that, by its very nature, human resources development, as both a critical instrument and goal of development, pervaded and transcended all sectors of development activity, both economic and social. Hence, human resources development could not be pursued realistically through a mosaic of uncoordinated unisectoral programmes and projects. An integrated, multisectoral approach was required to effect the needed coordination among the human resources development-related activities under way in each development sector.

342. The Commission was of the view that, while the Jakarta Plan of Action had spurred national efforts towards recognition of the importance of an integrated approach to human resources development, such efforts had been constrained by deficiencies in information, innovative measures and institutional mechanisms. They had been hampered by the sectorally compartmentalized approach that had traditionally been taken in dealing with the many facets of human resources development. The fragmentation of human resources development efforts among established bodies, each absorbed in its own responsibilities, had caused wasteful duplication of programmes and even conflicts among them.

343. With the above concern in mind, the Commission welcomed the launching by ESCAP, in association with ILO and UNESCO, of a UNDP-funded project on assistance towards the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action. That project had been designed to promote human resources development in the region by strengthening integrated human resources development planning and coordination at the local, national and regional levels and by initiating preliminary studies and pilot projects. Organized in conformity with the three central themes of the Jakarta Plan of Action, employment and manpower development, science and technology, and quality of life, the project represented the most important undertaking in support of the implementation of phase I of the Jakarta Plan of Action.

344. The Commission welcomed the establishment of the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development as a major activity under the project. The objectives of the Network were: (i) to monitor and evaluate human resources development situations, policies and programmes; (ii) to raise awareness of human resources development concerns in national development activities and among the public at large; (iii) to improve coordination among ministries and agencies handling sectoral aspects of human resources development, and thereby ensure the necessary multisectoral perspective on human resources development; and (iv) to promote technical cooperation among ESCAP members and associate members with respect to human resources development.

345. The Commission observed that the Network would provide the necessary institutional mechanism for the ESCAP region to pursue a more unified approach to the formulation and implementation of human resources development policies and programmes. Some 31 Governments in the region, including those of 17 least developed and Pacific island developing countries, had designated specific national agencies and bodies as their national human resources development focal points in the Network. Those national focal points included planning agencies, ministries and departments, and other government bodies responsible for human resources development policies and programmes.

346. The Commission pointed out that one challenge that lay ahead for the region was the rationalization and encouragement of interorganizational cooperation at the national level among ministries and other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, private enterprises and the like. Similarly, at the regional and international levels the challenge was to establish greater cooperation among Governments, intergovernmental and other organizations, and donor agencies. The Network provided a means of addressing that challenge.

347. The Commission welcomed the publication of the *ESCAP HRD Newsletter* and acknowledged its value as a means whereby information and views could be shared among countries in the region and as a guide with reference to the formulation of national human resources development policies and programmes. It requested the secretariat to continue the regular issuance of the newsletter and its widespread dissemination throughout the region.

348. The Commission noted with approval the other subprojects being implemented under the UNDP-funded project on human resources development; they included subprojects on the effective local-level delivery of human resources development-related programmes, small town and rural human resources development to reduce migration to large cities, diversified skill development for women in industry, vocational training for advanced technology, and human resources development perspectives in education planning.

349. The Commission underscored the importance of improving the quality of life of the people as an essential aspect of human resources development-oriented development policies and programmes. In that regard, the Commission expressed gratification that, in pursuance of resolution 273 (XLIV), the secretariat was implementing, with the generous support of Japan, a project on a quality-of-life survey. It requested the secretariat to keep it regularly informed of progress in the implementation of that project.

350. The Commission emphasized the need in many countries of the region for the promotion of comprehensive human resources development policies for youth. In that regard, the Commission reviewed

the secretariat's initiative, with generous financial assistance from the Republic of Korea, to provide regional support through the convening in 1990 of a seminar on human resources development policies and programmes for youth in the ESCAP region. The Commission pointed out that comprehensive human resources development policies for youth should be informed by an analysis of specific national experiences on policy approaches and their impact on young people. The improved understanding of the issues and policy options on the basis of that analysis would, the Commission felt, contribute to the elaboration of more integrated and effective policies for the participation of youth in development in the countries of the region.

351. The Commission commended the secretariat on its successful implementation, with the generous support of the Government of France, of the project on the ESCAP Human Resources Development Award. The project had been devised to promote competence building in the field of human resources development in the ESCAP region. The theme chosen for the Award had been "Human resources development aspects of environment".

352. The Commission extended its congratulations to the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), the winner of the Award. ANGOC, a non-governmental organization based in the Philippines, had been selected by an independent international jury from among 43 applicants for its outstanding work on human resources development aspects of the environment, in particular for the way in which it had been able to harmonize local, national and regional points of view on that subject through its network of affiliated organizations.

353. With the successful conclusion of the project on the ESCAP Human Resources Development Award, the Commission invited donors to contribute to the continuation of that useful exercise through the financing of the Award for another year. The theme proposed for the Award the following year, if the necessary extrabudgetary resources were available, was "Human resources development: the role of women".

354. In recognition of the pivotal role of the private sector and of non-governmental organizations in human resources development, the secretariat was requested to strengthen its activities for the promotion of cooperation between government agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in the formulation and implementation of innovative policies and programmes for human resources development in the ESCAP region.

Environment: follow-up of the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and other issues and programmes

355. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/767, E/ESCAP/768 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/809 and E/ESCAP/817 on the follow-up of the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, the environmental challenges of the 1990s, the proposed programme of work and priorities on the environment, and the report of the Meeting of Senior Officials on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific.

356. The Commission noted with appreciation the remarks of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation of the United Nations, who had stated that one of the major causes of the planet's environmental problems was the unequal distribution of wealth within and between countries and regions. There could not be real and enduring development nor could there be true security for the increasingly jeopardized environment while such inequities persisted. He observed that the ESCAP region was a very diverse region burdened with the majority of the world's poor and that to deal effectively with its environmental problems would require careful planning, the efficient use of resources and cooperation at all levels. In that connection, he cited ESCAP as being the first regional commission to make an effort to foster active cooperation among United Nations agencies and other relevant regional organizations through an inter-agency coordination mechanism to meet the challenges of environment and development. In that regard, he commended the initiative of the Executive Secretary and called upon all United Nations agencies to work to make their cooperation a success. He urged donor agencies to increase their support for the implementation of the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development. To promote the efficient utilization of resources, he called for the integration of environment and development through the promotion of actions aimed at the root causes of environmental deterioration.

357. The Commission expressed deep concern that continued environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources in the ESCAP region posed a serious threat to environmentally sound and sustainable development and stressed that rapid population growth, the pervasive problems of poverty, depletion of natural resources and loss of biodiversity, land degradation, pollution of air and water, toxic and hazardous wastes, natural disasters, and the global environmental problems of the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer and climate change were some of the urgent environment-development issues confronting the region.

358. The Commission considered that the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok in October 1990, had been a significant event. It generally endorsed the findings and recommendations of the Conference and the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, as contained in document E/ESCAP/767. In that connection, the Commission called upon all countries to develop appropriate policies and actions at the national, subregional, regional and global levels; directed the secretariat to explore various ways and means to catalyse early implementation of the recommendations of the Conference; and urged donor Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies, and other funding organizations to support that task.

359. The Commission considered that any discussion of economic development was incomplete without due consideration of its relationship with the environment and that ESCAP over the past year had

been playing a prominent role in determining how the environment-development link related to the particular nature and needs of the Asian and Pacific region. It noted that in that process, ESCAP had formulated an input to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992 and had finalized the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, which provided a useful framework for dealing with the causes and effects of environmental degradation in the region; the deliberations revealed that those causes and effects were by no means uniform in the region.

360. The Commission noted that the NGO/Media Symposium on Communication for Environment, an exhibition on clean technologies, the ESCAP/Japan photographic exhibit on environment and development, and a regional painting contest for children on the theme of technology and environment had been held in conjunction with the Ministerial-level Conference. It further noted that the major achievements of the Symposium were the formulation of the Universal Code of Environmental Conduct, creation of awareness of the need to crystallize cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the media, and the formulation of a set of recommendations for follow-up at the regional, national and local levels.

361. The Commission commended the secretariat on the successful holding of the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and noted with appreciation the secretariat's continuing efforts to integrate environmental considerations into the development process. It expressed deep appreciation to UNDP, UNEP, ADB and the Governments of Australia, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Thailand and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for their generous support of the Conference.

362. The Commission considered the report of the Meeting of Senior Officials on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok from 13 to 19 February 1991, and generally endorsed the recommendations contained therein. In particular, the Commission endorsed the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development finalized at that Meeting. It observed that the Regional Strategy provided a broad framework of priorities and action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. The Commission stressed the need to develop national strategies and action plans for environmentally sound and sustainable development. It noted, however, that the majority of the developing countries in the region lacked the necessary financial and other resources and technologies to enable them to participate effectively in the global, regional and subregional efforts for environmental protection. In that regard, the Commission recommended that the secretariat should play a catalytic and coordinating role in the implementation of national, subregional and regional programmes and projects for environmentally sound and sustainable development.

363. The Commission endorsed the document on input from the Asian and Pacific region to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (E/ESCAP/817, annex III), finalized at the Meeting of Senior Officials on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific for transmission to the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 Conference for consideration at its third session, scheduled to be held in August 1991.

364. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 47/7 on integration of environment and development in Asia and the Pacific.

365. The Commission, while agreeing that environmentally sound and sustainable development largely depended on domestic policies, recognized that regional and international strategies on that matter made national efforts more effective and conducive to developing national capabilities. It therefore strongly recommended the pursuit of regional cooperation for establishing and/or strengthening environmental institutions, improving environmental planning, supporting appropriate environmental technologies and promoting environmental awareness.

366. The Commission generally endorsed the various issues on regional cooperation as contained in document E/ESCAP/768 and Corr.1, including the establishment of a network of environment and economic policy research institutions, a regional working group on the marine environment and oceanographic institutions and a comprehensive database on the environment for the region. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should continue to pursue activities to understand better the interrelationship between poverty and the environment, as well as activities and programmes on land degradation, village environment, pollution, and industry, urbanization and technology.

367. The Commission noted with concern that technologies and expertise necessary for solving environmental problems were scarce in many developing countries of the region. In that regard it was the view of some delegations that transfer of environmentally sound technologies on a favourable basis, particularly for developing countries, was crucial for the protection of the environment. If sustainable development was to be achieved throughout the region, environmentally sound technologies and expertise should be made available. The Commission therefore urged the secretariat to play an active role in addressing those deficiencies by promoting the development and transfer of environmental technologies. It was suggested that, in the area of development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, the regional network should include the proposed UNEP centre for global environmental technologies, as well as national environmental monitoring, and research and training centres being established in such countries as China, Thailand and possibly Indonesia with the financial and technical assistance of Japan.

368. The Commission supported the initiatives taken by the secretariat to enhance coordination and strengthen cooperation at the regional level on programmes on environment and development among all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations, multilateral and bilateral funding agencies and non-governmental organizations. In that regard, it endorsed the recommendation on the establishment of a regional inter-agency committee on environment and development, under the chairmanship of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, as contained in

the report of the Meeting of Senior Officials on Environment and Development (E/ESCAP/817, annex II). The Commission urged the secretariat to take the necessary steps to put the inter-agency coordination mechanism into operation as early as possible and invited all concerned organizations to participate actively in the establishment and future work of the inter-agency committee.

369. The Commission noted that the Global Environmental Facility administered by the World Bank, in cooperation with UNDP and UNEP, for funding programmes in the developing countries was inadequate and limited in scope to four environmental areas: ozone layer depletion, conservation of biological diversity, climatic change and protection of international waters. Accordingly, the Commission recommended that the secretariat should explore the possibility of establishing a regional funding mechanism, in cooperation with UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank and ADB, to meet the needs of developing members and associate members of ESCAP and cover major environmental issues, particularly those not covered by the Global Environmental Facility. The secretariat should also seek extrabudgetary resources for project implementation from various donors, including the European Economic Community, which had set aside special funds for the environment.

370. The Commission noted the need for establishing a mechanism for emergency environmental assistance. In that context, it was suggested that a register of experts, enterprises and organizations involved in emergency environmental assistance could be prepared. The establishment of a bank of environmentally friendly technologies might also be considered.

371. Some delegations observed that the recent war in the Persian Gulf area had adversely affected the environment of the region in general and the marine environment of the Persian Gulf in particular, which called for measures to help alleviate those environmental problems. It was noted that some organizations had been conducting environmental studies in the affected areas. It was suggested that ESCAP, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and the affected countries, assess the extent of degradation of the environment that had taken place, along with the possible impact on the ESCAP region, and recommend possible measures.

372. The Commission noted with interest that Japan was organizing a ministerial-level conference on environment and development, ECO ASIA '91, at Tokyo in July 1991 with the participation of governmental ministers, prominent figures from the private sector, academics and non-governmental organizations.

373. The representative of UNDP stated that UNDP had made environmentally sound and sustainable development the centre of its programme of work for the next five years. At the regional level, UNDP considered the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development to be an important link between global priorities and national plans, and would cooperate with ESCAP on the implementation of the Strategy. UNDP recommended setting the order of priorities for action, indicating the cost of the proposed interventions, and incorporating time-bound indicators of achievement. At the national level, UNDP encouraged Governments to allocate at least one third of available UNDP resources to developing and implementing national strategies for environmentally sound and sustainable development. UNDP resident representatives had been designated as the representatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; funds could be made available for the preparation of national papers for that Conference. UNDP actively supported the development of country proposals for funding by the Global Environmental Facility and the Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

374. The representative of UNEP described its many activities at the global and regional levels and reiterated its commitment to support the implementation of the Regional Strategy, particularly in translating it into costed programmes and activities. In that connection, UNEP supported the idea of the establishment of the proposed inter-agency committee on environment and development as a forum for cooperation among United Nations agencies, international bodies and other relevant organizations for the implementation of the Strategy. UNEP looked forward to continued collaboration with ESCAP and cited the Memorandum of Understanding signed in October 1990 between UNEP and ESCAP for joint programming of activities in eight priority environmental areas. UNEP urged member countries of ESCAP to ratify the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and announced that the theme for World Environment Day 1991 was "Climate change - Need for global partnership".

375. The representative of UNESCO cited the need for the organizations of the United Nations system to pool their resources and coordinate their efforts in promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development, and supported the establishment of an inter-agency committee on environment and development as a positive step in that direction. The representative of WHO noted with satisfaction that human health dimensions had been included in the Ministerial Declaration and in the Regional Strategy and assured the Commission of the full support and cooperation of WHO in their implementation. WHO also supported the establishment of an inter-agency coordination mechanism, under the auspices of ESCAP.

376. The Commission considered the proposed programme of work and priorities in the field of environment for the biennium 1992-1993. Some delegations stressed the need to strengthen the environment programme so as to reinforce its function of implementing cooperative arrangements with the Governments, organizations within the United Nations system, regional development banks, and non-governmental organizations at the regional and subregional levels. The Commission adopted the programme of work and priorities on the environment as contained in document E/ESCAP/809.

Human settlements

377. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/769 and E/ESCAP/810.

378. The Commission expressed concern at the alarming rate of urbanization in the Asian and Pacific region, and at the concentration of urban population in large cities. It noted that by the year 2000, the region would have 14 of the world's 22 mega-cities (with a population of over 10 million). The Commission recognized that rapid urban growth was often accompanied by problems of urban congestion, environmental degradation, unprecedented pressure on infrastructure and services, widened disparities of income, an increasing number of underemployed and unemployed workers, and sprawling slums and squatter settlements. The Commission was concerned at the poverty level in urban areas, which had reached alarming proportions in several countries.

379. The Commission expressed the view that countries should take advantage of the dynamism of urbanization and guide the process in such a way that it supported national socio-economic development. Countries should adopt appropriate strategies supported by suitable policies to tackle current problems related to urban productivity and poverty and environmental management in urban areas. Countries should at the same time consider adopting forward-looking strategies that would being urban amenities to rural areas, and promote balanced development of settlements bridging the gap between rural and urban areas.

380. The Commission noted that there were several viable approaches to urbanization in the region, where government policies supported by allocation of resources had led to balanced and distributed development of settlements. In Sri Lanka, owing to the Government's special efforts to implement rural credit programmes, rural electrification and water supply projects, and settlement policies, population growth in large cities had been nominal and many rural areas were becoming more urban in character. In China, deliberate government policy towards integrated development of rural and urban areas led to the development of small and intermediate cities with strategic advantages, as well as rural townships, which helped in overcoming the concentration of population in a few large cities. In the Republic of Korea, government policy for simultaneous development of rural and urban areas led to balanced and distributed development of settlements across the country, in the form of intermediate cities, new towns, small towns and rural centres.

381. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the initial steps taken by the secretariat to implement Commission resolution 46/2 on urbanization strategies in the ESCAP region - Towards environmentally sound and sustainable development and management of urban areas. It welcomed the offer of UNCHS and the World Bank to co-sponsor the regional conference on urbanization tentatively scheduled for late 1992. It also noted with appreciation that the UNDP-funded and World Bank/UNCHS-executed urban management programme would be contributing to the preparations for the conference.

382. The Commission stressed that the regional conference should focus on appropriate urbanization strategies that the countries could consider adopting, as well as on issues of major concern, such as productivity, poverty and environment management in urban areas. Since the regional conference would be deliberating on policy measures having far-reaching consequences, the Commission decided that it should be convened at the ministerial level. The Commission noted with appreciation the statement of the representative of the Netherlands that his Government was considering the possibility of contributing financially to the preparations for and convening of the conference. It was also suggested that group meetings of non-governmental organizations, the media and local authorities could be held to deliberate on urbanization issues in conjunction with the conference.

383. The Commission was pleased to note the successful conclusion of the Regional Seminar to Promote Public Awareness on the Issues and Policies of Low-income Shelter and Settlements, held at Yonsei University, Seoul in October-November 1990. It expressed appreciation of the financial support provided by the Republic of Korea to the project. Recognizing that rapid urbanization had considerable impact on urban low-income settlements, the Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Seminar on the establishment of an ad hoc Asia Pacific urban forum which would provide a mechanism for promoting regional cooperation among all actors dealing with urban issues. The major actors should be national and local governments, non-governmental organizations, the media, academics and research and training institutes. The forum would serve as a platform for exchanging ideas, sharing regional experience, and discussing policy approaches which could be adopted to deal with critical issues. The forum would meet as and when required and on each occasion it could focus on a specific theme. In that context, the Commission noted with appreciation the desire of the Republic of Korea to host a regional conference on the theme "Development of new towns and intermediate cities with emphasis on balanced development and growth management of large cities" in 1993 as the first activity of the forum.

384. The Commission appreciated the efforts of the secretariat in establishing and strengthening the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET) with financial support from UNDP and contributions from participating cities. It recognized CITYNET as one of the most successful examples of regional cooperation in the area of urban management. It noted that CITYNET would become self-reliant in 1992, when it would be expected to meet the institutional costs of its secretariat in Yokohama, Japan. To enable CITYNET to continue undertaking programme activities, the Commission directed the ESCAP secretariat to provide technical support and urged UNDP to provide programme support.

385. The Commission noted with interest that UNDP programme support in the area of urban management would be determined within the framework of the global urban management programme, with emphasis on capacity building.

386. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the cities of Kuala Lumpur and Penang to host jointly the second congress of CITYNET in November 1991. It noted that two regional seminars would be held in conjunction with the congress, one on urban environmental management at Kuala Lumpur and the other on integrated urban energy management systems at Penang.

387. The Commission took note of the successful conclusion of the Regional Seminar on Human Resources Development to Improve the Quality of Life in Intermediate Cities, hosted by Bogor, in cooperation with the Government of Indonesia in February-March 1991. It appreciated the financial contribution of Japan to the project. Considering the important role of intermediate cities in the context of rapid urbanization, the Commission urged the secretariat to implement the recommendations of the Seminar on a priority basis. It noted that initiatives were already under way to improve the subnational area planning methodology, with the financial assistance of the Government of France.

388. The Commission appreciated the secretariat's efforts in promoting exchange programmes among non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in settlements development. A number of such organizations in the region had had the opportunity of learning from the experience of others and introducing innovative practices in their own communities to improve low-income shelter and settlements, an area in which women played a major role. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for providing financial assistance to the project. It directed the secretariat to continue promoting such exchange programmes. The Commission noted with interest the recent initiative of UNDP to promote non-governmental organizations through its Asia-Pacific 2000 programme.

389. The Commission noted that a regional training seminar on rural centre and settlements planning was scheduled to be held in Indonesia in May 1991 to promote rural centres as part of an integrated strategy to tackle urbanization. The seminar would deliberate extensively on two new chapters of the *Guidelines for Rural Centre Planning*, one on employment generation and the other on the organizational framework. It expressed gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for its generous support of the project. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host a regional seminar on rural centre and settlements planning in October 1991.

390. The Commission noted that to cater for the needs of low-income households and in support of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, the secretariat had prepared two sets of guidelines with the generous assistance of the Government of France. One set of guidelines was on the promotion of building component industries based on modular coordination rules, and the other on promotion of innovative and community-based housing finance and credit systems. The Commission noted the requests of the Governments of Bangladesh and Viet Nam for assistance in the implementation of the guidelines on component industries.

391. The Commission noted that the secretariat was in the process of developing a set of guidelines to promote the role of communities and the informal sector for effective urban environment management. The Commission was also pleased to note that WHO and ESCAP, in cooperation with CITYNET, were planning to undertake a "healthy cities programme" in several cities in Asia during the fifth programming cycle of UNDP.

392. The Commission noted in particular that the secretariat, with the generous financial support of the Government of Japan, had convened the Consultative Meeting of National Experts in Human Settlements of Small Pacific Island Developing Countries at Port Vila in October 1990, which had recommended that subregional workshops be held on land management, innovative income-generating activities and community participation. The Commission requested the secretariat to pursue those recommendations on a priority basis.

393. The Commission noted the secretariat's efforts in organizing jointly with the Government of Viet Nam two regional workshops to promote community participation in housing development, one at Ho Chi Minh City in August 1990 and the other at Hanoi in March 1991.

394. The Commission noted with interest the following developments reported by various countries. In Indonesia, a well-defined national urban development policy existed and recently an urban development coordination team had been established under the auspices of the National Development and Planning Agency. An integrated urban infrastructure development programme was under implementation to support overall urban development. In addition, a national housing policy supported by a plan of action had been formulated and initiatives to formulate housing strategy at the provincial and district levels were under way. Malaysia had taken action to formulate a national urbanization policy with emphasis also on the development of rural growth centres nationwide. It was also evaluating micro-level policies for tackling problems such as urban environment, infrastructure and the provision of services. In Sri Lanka, within the 1.5 Million Houses Programme, there was an urban housing subprogramme under which 150,000 houses were expected to be built to cater for the needs of the urban poor. In Pakistan, the major emphasis of the seventh five-year plan (1988-1993) was on solving the problem of housing through a crash programme. The recently finalized national housing policy stressed the role of the private sector and the need for providing support to housing finance and other related institutions. The National Housing Authority established in 1987 was playing an important role in catering for the needs of low-income groups.

395. The Commission noted that Afghanistan had launched a programme of rehabilitation and development of its human settlements in two five-year interlinked phases, covering the entire period of the 1990s.

396. The Commission approved the programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993, on human settlements, contained in document E/ESCAP/810.

Industrial and technological development, including the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery

Industrial and technological development

397. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/770, E/ESCAP/771, E/ESCAP/772 and E/ESCAP/811.

398. In deliberating on the progress of preparations for the convening of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, the Commission expressed satisfaction with the preparatory activities undertaken by the secretariat and expressed the view that the Meeting was timely and would serve a very useful purpose. The Commission endorsed the agenda of the Meeting and suggested that the issues and implications of the uncertainty in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations should also be taken into account when the documentation was being prepared for submission to the Meeting.

399. The Commission felt that the Meeting of Ministers could work out the modalities for the implementation of various regional cooperation measures as suggested under the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific.

400. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology and urged all members and associate members to assist in the preparatory activities, as well as to participate in the Meeting.

401. The Commission endorsed the proposal that the Meeting be held early in 1992 and directed the secretariat to take the necessary steps in that regard, including consultation with the members and associate members. It noted that the exact dates of the Meeting would be finalized by the secretariat in consultation with the host Government.

402. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan of the generous financial assistance provided for the preparatory activities related to the convening of the Meeting, and urged other potential donors to provide assistance to facilitate the work preparatory to the Meeting and the participation of representatives of the least developed and island developing economies.

403. The Commission, while appreciating the activities undertaken by the secretariat in the field of industrial development, expressed the view that activities in the areas of agro-allied industries and small and medium-sized industries needed to be strengthened.

404. The Commission noted the secretariat's current activities, especially in promoting international competitiveness and efficient resource utilization in manufacturing, human resources development policy and planning for industrial development, and investment promotion. In that respect, it recommended that the secretariat should strengthen its activities related to investment promotion, targeting especially the relatively disadvantaged groups, such as the least developed and island developing economies. It also felt that entrepreneurial development activities in the least developed countries should be strengthened.

405. The Commission noted with interest the new initiatives undertaken in several economies of the region aimed at improving their industrial efficiency and directed the secretariat to assist in strengthening national capabilities, particularly through regional programmes in the areas of industrial skills promotion and development and entrepreneurial development.

406. The Commission noted the progress made by the secretariat in the field of technology for development within the framework of the Tokyo Programme on Technology for Development in Asia and the Pacific, and welcomed the range of initiatives undertaken since the forty-sixth session of the Commission to organize exchange study visits, expert group meetings, advisory services and training workshops, and to prepare studies in a variety of subject areas, including food processing and preservation technologies; electricity conservation in commercial and domestic sectors; new and emerging technologies; technological rehabilitation of small foundry industries; solar photovoltaic systems; industrial consultancy services aimed at establishing and strengthening institutional infrastructure for science and technology; strengthening the technological capabilities of member countries; and monitoring breakthroughs in science and technology. The Commission, reiterating its support for those activities recommended that they be continued so as to facilitate endogenous technology development and foster acquisition and absorption capabilities among its members.

407. The Commission noted the useful and comprehensive information on the enhancement of intraregional technology flows presented in document E/ESCAP/772 and on standardization and quality control presented in document E/ESCAP/771, and generally endorsed the concepts and recommendations contained therein.

408. The Commission emphasized the importance of standardization, metrology and quality control in promoting industrial and technological development in the region. While noting the inadequacy of manpower and testing facilities in some countries, the Commission reaffirmed the need for the strengthening and/or establishment of national standardization, metrology and quality control institutions, with the assistance of developed countries and relevant international organizations, to link the process of technology adaptation and development more closely to the challenges of export promotion and international trade. The Commission was concerned that while linkages with international standards should be maintained for export promotion, some caution should be exercised to ensure that such standards were not set at levels unattainable by developing countries of the region, as that would have an adverse impact on their trade expansion efforts. The Commission directed the secretariat to give importance to standardization, metrology and quality control and to design and implement appropriate TCDC activities and programmes which would provide for, *inter alia*, access to and sharing of useful information and appropriate means for regional consultation on related issues. The Commission recommended that efforts should be made to ensure that cooperation was maintained with international organizations such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

409. The Commission also noted with interest the national activities related to standardization, metrology and quality control of several members, including Japan, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam. It noted with appreciation the technical

assistance provided by Japan to several ASEAN countries, as well as that provided by the Republic of Korea to several countries, Viet Nam in particular. The Commission also noted with appreciation the offer of Thailand to member countries to make use of the Calibration Centre in Thailand so as to provide credit for export products to facilitate effective competition in international trade.

410. The Commission noted with appreciation the offers of cooperation with the secretariat in the implementation of several useful activities aimed at upgrading national capabilities in standardization, metrology and quality control: from Japan, to provide related information and experts to ESCAP; and from the Republic of Korea, to host a training course on standardization and quality control for senior officials of developing countries at Seoul in 1991.

411. The Commission, while appreciating the data provided on various national institutions for standardization and their areas of responsibility as presented in tables 1 and 2 of document E/ESCAP/771, considered that it would be useful not only to update such information but also to include data for quality certification with particular reference to the Quality Management System as specified in the ISO-9000 Series, to facilitate the export of products from the member countries of the region to the European market. The Commission also suggested that the issue of agricultural machinery and laboratory accreditation in food and beverages should be included in the annex to the same document as areas worth exploring for TCDC activities.

412. The Commission stressed, in particular, that concrete measures needed to be taken by the more advanced developing countries to maintain and improve their technologically competitive positions in the face of foreseeable challenges resulting from current events on the global economic front and by less developed countries to build up appropriate domestic technological capabilities. Intraregional technology flow through capital goods purchases, foreign direct investment and technical services imports was identified as a viable route capable of providing remedies for those problems. It was considered cost-effective and more suited to developing country conditions, while often facilitating the early absorption of not only "know-how" but also "know-why", thus enhancing the possibilities for building up endogenous capacity for technology acquisition, adaptation, generation and diffusion. The Commission therefore considered it worthwhile to encourage the enhancement of such flows, which had now achieved a level of some 20-25 per cent of all technology in-flows in quite a few countries. It was, however, pointed out that flexible and timely adjustments in technology policy responses and technology climate would be required. The Commission consequently directed the secretariat to design and undertake appropriate activities, which might include the organization of seminars, training workshops and the preparation of studies, to enable members to create an appropriate climate for technological capability (acquisition, adaptation, operation and innovation) and intraregional technology flow enhancement along the lines laid out in document E/ESCAP/772, so as to accelerate the process of industrial development. The Commission called for special attention to be paid to the least developed and island developing countries in that regard, taking into account the recommendations made in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

413. The Commission stressed the need for the use by members of new and emerging technologies, appropriate standardization and quality control techniques, and materials saving and energy-efficient processes and technologies to improve the competitiveness of the price and quality of products, as well as for well-designed economic incentive packages for small and medium-sized enterprises. Another measure suggested was involvement of the private sector and of the scientific, technological and banking communities in technology development, transfer and adaptation decisions. In that regard, the Commission called on the secretariat to design and implement appropriate activities to assist its members and associate members.

414. The Commission, while stressing that a well-trained and stable workforce would increase the possibilities for foreign investment and the capability of assimilation of technology transferred, directed the secretariat to formulate appropriate human resources development programmes to meet the requirements of monitoring, assessing, selecting, adapting and diffusing existing conventional and new and emerging technologies, including environmentally sound technologies for industrial development.

415. The Commission emphasized the need for improvements in policy and infrastructure measures and mechanisms for efficient technology transfer, adaptation and assimilation, particularly national information networks responsible for collecting and analysing technological information and market intelligence to assist individual firms. The Commission further emphasized that members should pursue actively the establishment of a database and operational technology information network in order to facilitate technology transfer, and requested the secretariat to explore ways of creating an active industrial consultancy service and regional information clearing-house.

416. The Commission noted with interest the steps taken by some members, including China, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to establish appropriate infrastructure for science and technology development. In that connection, the Commission appreciated the offer of Malaysia to share with other countries of the region its related experience in formulating its Action Plan on Industrial Technology Development.

417. The Commission welcomed the offers of Japan and the Republic of Korea to cooperate with ESCAP in technology transfer in other ESCAP human resources development-related activities in the technology sphere, as well to provide technology-related information.

418. The Commission noted with interest that, at the invitation of China, the secretariat, in July 1990, not only had reviewed and studied the SPARKS Programme in Jiangsu and Fujian provinces, which was designed to promote rural economic reform by the introduction and application of science and technology

in those areas, but had also, at the request of the Government of China, distributed the comprehensive mission report on the subject to members to share important information on the SPARKS concept and eventually develop a related TCDC regional project. The Commission welcomed the offer of China to undertake technical cooperation activities among developing countries within the ESCAP region in transferring the SPARKS concept to other countries of the region on a multilateral or bilateral basis, as required.

419. The Commission noted with interest the close collaboration and joint work pursued by ESCAP and UNIDO in the implementation, *inter alia*, of the UNIDO Special Programme for Least Developed Countries in Asia and the Pacific; in the agro-related metalworking industry; in activities related to the UNIDO System of Consultations; in the Expert Group Meeting on the Fisheries Industry for Asian and Pacific Island Countries, to be held in Singapore; and in preparations for the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology. The Commission welcomed that approach and the process of joint programme development meetings, and urged the continuation and strengthening of such collaboration.

420. The Commission noted with appreciation the extrabudgetary assistance provided by various donor countries and agencies, including China, India, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and UNDP, in implementing the activities in the fields of industrial and technological development.

421. The Commission reviewed and adopted the proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993 as contained in document E/ESCAP/811. It also approved the programme changes for 1991.

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

422. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/773 and Corr.1 entitled "Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology".

423. The Director of the Centre informed the Commission of ongoing projects which were being financed by UNDP, UNIDO and ADB. Programme support made available to the Centre so far for 1991 totalled approximately $US 800,000. Further support from various sources was being negotiated. Positive indications for additional programme support existed, if the required institutional support was assured.

424. The Commission noted that major projects currently being undertaken by APCTT were the setting up of a data bank on clean technologies and the establishment of a training programme on environmental technologies, proposed by the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific held at Bangkok in October 1990.

425. The Director informed the Commission that although the Centre had ample local infrastructure, such as General Service staff and the premises provided by the Government of India, it lacked core management staff, and that was severely hampering the operations of the Centre.

426. The Chief of the Division of Industry, Human Settlements and Environment informed the Commission that although the programme support to APCTT was adequate, the level of institutional support to the Centre was a matter of concern. While the Government of India had been making generous contributions to the extent of $US 100,000 per annum in local currency, as well as offering physical facilities in Bangalore, the financial support from other Governments had not been sufficient to assure the viability of the Centre. It was pointed out that as against the minimum institutional requirements of $US 250,000, only $US 179,000 was available to the Centre at present. He expressed the hope that during the announcement of intended contributions at the current session of the Commission, member Governments would pledge enhanced institutional support to sustain the Centre at its current location.

427. The Commission appreciated the useful work of APCTT and endorsed the work programme of the Centre. It noted with appreciation that APCTT, in addition to its previous areas of activities such as technology information, management and utilization programmes, was now becoming involved in the field of the environment and clean technologies, as well as adopting a practical approach by organizing training courses and other human resources development programmes. One delegation urged that the technology atlas programme should be continued.

428. The Commission strongly urged the member countries and donors to support the Centre by providing institutional support in accordance with the recommendations of the Governing Board of the Centre, the suggested minimum threshold contributions being $US 15,000 for developing countries and $US 1,000 for the least developed countries of the region. It also urged potential donor Governments and agencies to provide senior experts in order to strengthen the manpower resources of APCTT.

429. Some delegations suggested that the ESCAP secretariat should redeploy posts or senior personnel from Bangkok to Bangalore, or allocate funds for the recruitment of such personnel. The secretariat explained that under the existing circumstances such redeployment was not possible. In order to enable the secretariat to allocate any additional resources, the Commission would need to recommend the creation of new posts and/or the allocation of financial resources for the purpose in its biennium programme budget, which would require the approval of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations.

430. The Commission reiterated its earlier concern that the location issue be resolved. The representative of India stated that the necessary approval for the construction of the new headquarters had already been obtained.

431. The Commission expressed its appreciation to UNDP, UNIDO, ADB, the Government of Japan and other donors of the financial assistance provided for the implementation of the programme of work of APCTT.

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery

432. The Commission deliberated on document E/ESCAP/774, entitled "Report on the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery" and document E/ESCAP/812, entitled "Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery beyond 1991 (Phase V, 1992-1996)".

433. It noted the useful contributions of the RNAM project in helping the participating countries in the areas of policy formulation, design and development of appropriate agricultural machinery, promotion of local manufacture of agricultural machinery and dissemination of information for the benefit of farmers. It also noted the catalytic assistance provided by the project to the participating countries in introducing appropriate machines in their pilot areas, and in exchanging prototypes and designs among themselves. It also appreciated the involvement of manufacturers in training and study tours organized with the purpose of enabling them to select machinery for introduction and possible replication in their own countries.

434. The Commission noted that RNAM had conducted a regional workshop on policies and strategies for agricultural mechanization in China, which had underscored the need for continuously formulating and updating agricultural mechanization policies in relation to national development goals. It agreed that a database in that area should be established in each of the national institutes of participating countries.

435. The Commission noted that following the success of the Agricultural Machinery Exhibition (Agrimach '89) at Bangkok in 1989, RNAM had taken steps preparatory to holding another exhibition, Agrimach '91, in the Philippines. It was noted that around 100 companies were expected to exhibit their machinery in Agrimach '91. Arrangements would also be made to hold one-on-one discussions between interested entrepreneurs to explore the possibilities of collaboration in manufacturing machinery and transfer of technology through joint-venture schemes or trade in technology.

436. The Commission also noted that 22 individuals, mostly machinery manufacturers and some government officials, had undertaken study visits to participating countries to select machinery appropriate to their needs. As a result, some 20 technology transfer activities had been carried out.

437. The Commission recommended that current activities relating to the introduction of technologies in the pilot areas, the exchange of prototypes and design, and human resources development should continue. In that regard, it noted with appreciation the assistance provided by the Government of Belgium for an in-factory design course to be held at Brussels from November 1991 to February 1992, in which engineers from 11 participating countries of RNAM would be trained by experienced design engineers in an actual factory environment and would solve design problems related to their work. The Commission also noted with appreciation the offer of host facilities by the Belgian Federation of Agricultural and Horticultural Equipment for a meeting of potential donors at Brussels. The Commission recommended that RNAM should take advantage of that offer and endeavour to hold the meeting in order to generate sufficient programme and institutional support for the project.

438. The Commission endorsed the programmes and proposals as described in document E/ESCAP/812. It noted with interest the new priorities and directions in accordance with which the manufacturers and manufacturers' associations would be directly involved in the activities of the project during the fifth phase, 1992-1996. The proposed programme to assist the countries in integrating women in agricultural mechanization activities during the fifth phase was welcomed. The Commission endorsed the following five subprogrammes of the project for the fifth phase:

Subprogramme 1.	Extension of agricultural machines (market expansion) through extensive demonstrations in farmers' fields
Subprogramme 2.	Manufacture of agricultural machines through sharing of technologies and joint venture/licensing arrangements
Subprogramme 3.	Design and development of appropriate agricultural machines through exchange of information and hardware
Subprogramme 4.	Integration of women in agricultural mechanization activities
Subprogramme 5.	Strategies for appropriate agricultural mechanization

439. The Commission suggested that the secretariat should explore the possibilities of extending the membership of the RNAM project to countries which were not yet a part of the network.

440. The Commission urged the donor countries to provide sufficient funds for various subprojects for the fifth phase, as proposed in document E/ESCAP/812. It noted that the minimum yearly cost for operating the Regional Office was around $US 150,000. In order to meet that cost, the Commission urged the participating member countries to make the modest contributions suggested for them in the document.

441. The Commission gratefully acknowledged the past and ongoing contributions of UNDP and the Governments of Australia and Japan to the project and hoped that their assistance would continue for future programmes of the project. The Commission noted that, following the decision it had taken at its forty-sixth session, the RNAM Regional Office would be operating from ESCAP headquarters with effect from 1 January 1992. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of the Philippines for hosting the project in Los Baños for the past 13 years.

International trade and development finance

442. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/775, E/ESCAP/793 and E/ESCAP/776 on

international trade and development finance, including tourism.

International trade

443. The Commission expressed appreciation of the quality of the documents produced by the secretariat and noted with satisfaction that the Committee on Trade at its twenty-seventh session had facilitated a useful exchange of views on major issues confronting the region.

444. The Commission observed that during the past year there had been significant developments, both political and economic, at the global level which would have a profound impact on the trading environment and prospects for trade in the 1990s. There was a generally shared perception that both the short- and the medium-term impact of the Persian Gulf war on the economies of the region, particularly the oil-importing countries, would be very severe, and there was therefore a need to take appropriate remedial action at the regional and global levels. At the regional level, the ESCAP secretariat should continue to analyse such developments with a view to assisting national Governments in the formulation of appropriate policies and remedial measures. At the global level, it was hoped that an action plan would be formulated to assist the countries affected by the Persian Gulf crisis. Although the region was geographically remote from the scene of the crisis, a number of developing countries had already suffered an adverse impact on account of higher oil import bills, loss of significant balance-of-payments support from workers' remittances, trade disruption owing to the trade embargo, and shortfalls in tourism. However, the Commission noted that the political developments and economic reforms in the USSR and the Eastern European countries could lead to new opportunities for trade expansion.

445. On the economic front, the Commission noted with concern the deceleration in the growth of world output and trade during the past two years, the volatility in exchange rates and the threat of a world-wide recession which could have a severe impact on the future growth of the developing economies through a more difficult and restrictive trading environment. The developing countries in particular were already facing problems relating to market access owing to unabated protectionism through tariff and non-tariff barriers, which were the strongest in areas in which those countries had the comparative advantage.

446. Against that background, the Commission stressed the importance of an early conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Noting with satisfaction that the Round was back on track, it emphasized the need for member countries to adopt a pragmatic approach backed by the necessary political will to overcome the current impasse in various sectors, so that the contemplated reform in the international trading system could be effected without inordinate delay. The contribution of a meaningful result in agriculture to such an outcome was noted. It observed that any more delay in the successful conclusion of the Round could further jeopardize the international trading system. Several delegations remarked that there were already ominous signs and negative trends, such as the emergence of trading blocs and administered trade. In that context, the representative of the United States pointed out that the mutual liberalization of trade between the United States, Mexico and Canada did not constitute a trading bloc and would not change in any way current relations between the United States and its trading partners. The Commission appreciated the major concerns of the developing countries in terms of improved market access, special and differential treatment for developing countries, fulfilment of standstill and roll-back commitments, a more effective mechanism for the settlement of disputes, bringing textiles within the discipline of GATT, as well as reforms in the agriculture sector, and hoped that the package of agreements concluded under the Round would take into consideration the special situation and development needs of the developing countries.

447. The Commission endorsed the basic objective of promoting intraregional trade and investment as a vehicle for more extensive regional cooperation. It adopted the programme of work for 1992-1993 and the programme changes for 1991 as contained in the annexes to document E/ESCAP/776, and endorsed the emphasis given to the expansion of trade in manufactures and value-added products.

448. In the light of the emerging world trade scenario, as well as the trade dynamism of the Asian and Pacific region, the Commission called for the revival of the spirit behind the Kabul Declaration on Asian Economic Co-operation and Development, adopted at the Fourth Council of Ministers on Asian Economic Co-operation in 1970, to promote closer regional cooperation. In that connection, the Commission stressed that there was a need to expand and strengthen commercial links between the regional and subregional groupings and arrangements such as the Bangkok Agreement, ASEAN, SAARC and the Pacific Forum, in order to take full advantage of the complementarities existing in the region, and called for a fuller utilization of existing mechanisms such as the Bangkok Agreement, the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) and the Asian Reinsurance Corporation (ARC). It further suggested that close cooperation be promoted among chambers of commerce and at the enterprise level, initially among members of the Bangkok Agreement.

449. The Commission was informed that a breakthrough had been achieved under the Second Round of Negotiations under the Bangkok Agreement in terms of a much larger coverage of items for tariff concessions, and that the Governments of Afghanistan and Papua New Guinea had initiated the process of negotiating with the members in order to accede to the Bangkok Agreement. The representatives of Myanmar and Viet Nam stated that they had been studying the Agreement with interest and proposed to have consultations with the secretariat on the subject. The representative of China also stated that the departments concerned in his country would like to have an exchange of views on the Agreement with the secretariat so as to enhance their understanding.

450. The Commission noted the statement made by the representative of ACU that the annual growth of the value of transactions channelled through ACU had been about 305 per cent between 1976 and 1990, and that it had introduced a swap financing arrangement in 1989 in order to help tide member countries over their

short-term foreign exchange difficulties. One delegation, however, felt that the lack of progress in the activities of ACU suggested that that was an area in which resource saving could be made.

451. While endorsing the activities of the secretariat as relevant to the needs and priorities of the developing countries, the Commission took particular note of the UNDP-funded projects on trade expansion and inter-enterprise investment promotion among developing countries of Asia and the Pacific, and on expansion of intraregional trade prospects and business opportunities in Asia and the Pacific in the 1990s. It felt that activities contemplated under those projects would contribute to the expansion of intraregional trade and economic cooperation.

452. The Commission called for the early establishment of a regional investment information and promotion service, recognizing that it would facilitate the expansion of intraregional trade in manufactures through promotion of joint ventures leading to transfer of technology and industrial integration in the region.

453. The Commission recognized the usefulness of information provided by the ESCAP secretariat through a series of foreign investment incentive schemes; it suggested that the coverage be extended to the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam and that the country information already issued be updated.

454. The Commission was of the view that effective use of GSP by the developing countries in the region would enhance their international competitiveness. It felt that the ESCAP study on the effects of GSP graduation in the Asian and Pacific region undertaken under the UNDP-funded project on GSP could be a valuable input for the formulation of appropriate trade, investment and industrial policies by the developing countries in the region in order to increase their competitive advantage in trade in manufactured and value-added goods.

455. The Commission reiterated the need for concerted action by developing countries to enhance trade in raw materials and commodities. In that connection, it noted with satisfaction the activities undertaken by the secretariat, especially within the framework of the regional cooperative arrangements in jute, silk and tropical timber, and suggested that the coverage should be extended to other commodities of socio-economic interest to the region. Several delegations further suggested that a regional strategy on commodity trade involving a multidisciplinary approach covering processing, quality control, packaging and marketing should be developed for the long-term development of that sector.

456. The Commission noted with interest the implementation of the UNDP-funded project on economic restructuring and international trade in the mineral commodities sector to assist developing countries of the ESCAP region in further developing their mineral commodities sector.

457. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue providing technical assistance and advisory services in commodity development to members and associate members and commodity bodies in the region. The suggestion was made that the ESCAP secretariat should assist the coffee producing countries in setting up an association similar to those existing for rubber and pepper, as well as assist developing countries in developing exports of marine and horticulture products and flowers.

458. The Commission expressed the hope that the Second Window of the Common Fund for Commodities would become operational soon, and requested the secretariat to continue to extend technical assistance and advisory services to commodity organizations in the region in the task of project identification and formulation. The Commission welcomed the recent initiative to promote a cooperation arrangement between the Common Fund and the ESCAP secretariat. However, some delegations noted with concern that the eligibility criteria for recognition as international commodity bodies to receive Common Fund assistance were restrictive, as they did not wholly cover producer commodity bodies. As the Common Fund was intended to benefit producer countries, the application of those criteria should be more flexible. They therefore requested ESCAP to explore the possibilities in that regard with the Common Fund secretariat.

459. In view of the secular decline in the prices of primary commodities and the adverse terms of trade, the representatives of some commodity producing countries requested the secretariat to explore, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, the possibility of setting up a regional compensatory finance scheme, an early warning system, joint research, and a banking network, and of sharing transport etc. One representative expressed the view that the regional compensatory finance scheme was not an effective mechanism.

460. The Commission commended the activities of the secretariat in the field of trade promotion and development and reiterated the need to continue and strengthen activities under the Regional Trade Information Network (TISNET), particularly the development of computerized trade information services and data communication systems for expansion of the trade of ESCAP members and associate members in a rapidly changing trading environment. It noted the usefulness of publications such as the *Traders' Manual for Asia and the Pacific* covering various countries of the region, as well as of other trade promotion activities, such as trade fairs.

461. The Commission took note of the request of the representative of the USSR that the secretariat prepare a handbook on trading with the USSR; he informed the Commission that his Government would provide detailed information on its new trade and investment policies and regulations.

462. The representative of the Republic of Korea informed the Commission that a global trade and industrial fair would be held at Taejŏn from August to November 1993. He expressed the hope that the fair would promote trade and industrial cooperation among participating countries.

463. The Commission took note of the usefulness of the Seminar on the External Dimensions of a Single European Market, Impact and Opportunities, held at Bangkok in April 1990, in sensitizing the developing countries of the region to the possible impact and

implications of the single European market, and suggested that another seminar on the subject should be organized. The representative of China requested the secretariat to explore the possibilities of organizing, in cooperation with the China International Trade Research and Training Center for the Asian and Pacific Region, a second symposium on trade and economic cooperation between China and Asian and Pacific countries, in China in 1992.

464. The Commission reaffirmed the usefulness of the secretariat's activities in the field of human resources development in international trade, and urged that such activities be strengthened, particularly by organizing seminars, workshops and training courses on trade promotion and expansion for both the public and private sectors, and on the development of women executives, giving special attention, wherever possible, to the needs of the least developed and island developing countries.

465. The Commission noted the usefulness of the activities of the secretariat aimed at creating greater appreciation among developing countries of trade facilitation measures in streamlining trade and customs procedures, especially in the context of emerging new technologies, more particularly EDIFACT (Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport).

466. The Commission endorsed the formal establishment of the ESCAP Regional Trade Facilitation Network, which would act as a vehicle for promoting uniform application of trade facilitation measures and meeting the needs and requirements of the countries in the area of trade facilitation. In that context, it urged the countries of the region to establish national trade facilitation bodies or similar arrangements which could form part of the Network.

467. Recalling its endorsement of the interregional project on trade facilitation at its forty-sixth session, and taking note of resolution 1990/74 adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 27 July 1990, the Commission unanimously adopted resolution 47/11 on interregional cooperation in the area of trade facilitation recommended by the Committee on Trade at its twenty-seventh session.

468. The representative of Australia informed the Commission about the Australia-New Zealand EDIFACT Board, and said that the developing countries of the region would be welcome to join the Board.

469. The Commission was pleased to note the activities being implemented and planned by the secretariat for the benefit of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. It requested the secretariat to give special attention to the needs and requirements of those countries and to extend greater support for the expansion of their trade and economic development.

470. The representative of UNCTAD informed the Commission of the preparatory work being undertaken for the eighth session of the Conference and of the recommendation of the Trade and Development Board to the General Assembly that it accept the offer of the Government of Colombia to host the session at Cartagena de Indias from 8 to 25 February 1992. He also informed the Commission of the substantive agenda for the session.

471. The representative of GATT informed the Commission of the progress of ongoing negotiations under the Uruguay Round, and of the training activities of GATT undertaken jointly with the ESCAP secretariat.

Tourism

472. The Commission reaffirmed the increasingly important role of tourism in the socio-economic development of the developing Asian and Pacific countries. It commended the work of the secretariat on tourism and supported the ESCAP activities in that area, noting that they were relevant to the major concerns of the region. It stressed that tourism should be given priority in the ESCAP programme and urged the secretariat to intensify its activities in that sector.

473. The Commission appreciated the studies undertaken by the secretariat on the economic impact of tourism. It noted that those studies were expected to provide better understanding of the economic role played by tourism and to contribute to the formulation of tourism policies in a systematic manner. It observed that in some countries it was the poor management of tourism development, rather than tourism itself, which had a detrimental effect on the environment and socio-cultural life. It took note of the request of the representative of Thailand that his country should be included in case studies on the environmental impact of coastal tourism development, and that a case study on the socio-cultural impact of tourism in Thailand be undertaken by the secretariat. It also noted the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the proposed expert group meeting on the integration of environmental considerations into coastal tourism development planning.

474. The Commission observed that as a result of the rapid growth in tourism, the development of human resources had become a pressing need. It endorsed the recommendations of the Workshop on Human Resources Development in the Tourism Sector, held at New Delhi in May 1990, and requested the secretariat to intensify its activities as a follow-up to that Workshop.

475. The Commission noted that foreign investment played an important role in tourism development in the region, and requested the secretariat to strengthen its activities in that area. It also noted that a seminar on investment and economic cooperation in the tourism sector in developing Asian economies of the ESCAP region would be held at Tokyo in 1991, subject to the availability of the requisite funds.

476. The Commission suggested that the future work of the secretariat should place special emphasis on the following areas: (a) the economic impact of tourism; (b) the socio-cultural and environmental impact of tourism; (c) human resources development; (d) tourism marketing; and (e) promotion of tourism investment. It took note of the suggestion that ESCAP should undertake activities to promote domestic tourism. It noted the request that a seminar on tourism marketing be organized. It also noted that there was great potential for developing the Mekong River area as a major tourist destination and requested ESCAP

and developed countries to extend technical and financial assistance for the development of tourism in that area. It stressed the important role of tourism in the economies of Pacific island countries and requested the secretariat to intensify activities to assist those countries.

477. While commending the secretariat on the usefulness of the work undertaken in the field of international trade and tourism, the Commission requested donor countries and international organizations to increase their assistance to the secretariat to enable it to meet the increasing needs and priorities of the developing countries. In that connection, it expressed appreciation to the Governments of Australia, China, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and the Republic of Korea, as well as to UNDP, the European Economic Community and the Netherlands Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries, for their financial and technical assistance to the secretariat in the implementation of its activities. It also noted with appreciation the secretariat's close cooperation with other international organizations in the fields of trade and tourism, namely, UNCTAD, ITC (International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT), GATT, the Customs Co-operation Council and the World Tourism Organization.

Transnational corporations

478. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/775.

479. It noted the activities and the main issues in the field of transnational corporations as set out by the secretariat, and endorsed the programme of work and priorities aimed at strengthening the capabilities of host countries in dealing with transnational corporations.

480. The Commission observed that, with recent global changes such as the end of the Persian Gulf war, the moves towards a market-based economy in Eastern Europe and the economic reforms in the USSR, transnational corporations could play an important role in the development process. They could help promote regional cooperation among ESCAP members and associate members.

481. The Commission recognized the need to restructure the industrial sector in the ESCAP region and the importance of transnational corporations in that process, especially in improving the competitiveness of export industries through the introduction of modern technology. It agreed that the needs and forms of technology transfer would be different for each country, depending on its level of development, economic structure and current comparative advantage.

482. The Commission noted that industrial development, while bringing about improvement in the economic development of the economies of the ESCAP region, had also had some adverse effects, such as urban congestion and environmental pollution.

483. It observed that the secretariat should continue to develop an information network and put every effort into promoting the code of conduct on transnational corporations.

484. The Commission felt that the secretariat should assist in improving the capability of host country entrepreneurs in dealing with transnational corporations, especially with respect to technology transfer and capital input.

485. The Commission also observed that since some developing countries had taken positive measures to promote foreign direct investment, joint ventures among member countries should be encouraged. One delegation pointed out that in view of the positive role of foreign direct investment, there was a need for establishing a regional information network on transnational corporations to exchange information and experience between developing countries in the region.

486. One delegation suggested that with the changed emphasis on the role of transnational corporations, that was an area of the secretariat's work in which resource savings might be possible.

487. The Commission noted tha the role of transnational corporations in the decade of the 1990s was to promote economic cooperation and intraregional trade in value-added products and services.

488. The Commission agreed that transnational corporations could play a useful role, especially in countries where economic restructuring was in progress.

Natural resources, including marine affairs

489. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/777, on the main issues and programmes in the field of natural resources, including marine affairs, and E/ESCAP/813, on the proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993.

490. The Commission adopted the draft programme of work, 1992-1993, in respect of natural resources. To cope with the new challenges and to provide quality planning and management of the activities, the Commission endorsed the request of the ESCAP secretariat that a regular programme on remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) be created in the Natural Resources Division.

Water resources

491. The Commission expressed appreciation of the work of the secretariat on water resources and its support for the continuation of the activities as presented in the programme of work, 1992-1993.

492. The Commission was in full concurrence with the assignment of high priority in that sector to the activities on water-related natural disaster reduction. It also expressed approval of the current emphasis on implementation of strategies for the rational development and efficient management and utilization of water resources, promotion of conservation of water and water quality, and environmentally sustainable development of water resources.

493. The Commission supported continuation of the secretariat's work on the implementation among

members of the exchange of experts and trainers programme on various aspects of water development and management. In that context, the Commission expressed appreciation to China of its offer to share its experience by dispatching experts to countries requesting such assistance, and to Indonesia of its offer to organize training courses at the diploma level on specific subjects, such as construction supervision of irrigation, and hydraulic planning engineering. The Commission also noted the readiness of the USSR to cooperate in the preparation of publications on such subjects as design and construction of flood protection works and landslide detection.

494. The Commission expressed appreciation of the work undertaken by the secretariat on water-related natural disaster reduction, expressed strong support for the continuation of the activities in that field, and urged UNDP and other donors to provide funding for activities on natural disaster reduction.

495. The Commission expressed gratitude to Australia, Japan, the Netherlands and UNDP for their continuing support of the activities of the water resources programme, and expressed the hope that such support would continue.

496. One delegation, referring to the recommendations of the United Nations Water Conference held at Mar del Plata, Argentina in 1977, which covered areas of regional and international cooperation, stated that the development of shared water resources might be given particular attention by ESCAP. Another delegation stated that ESCAP should focus on other priority areas in water resources development and that the question of shared water resources in the region should be handled under bilateral arrangements.

497. One delegation suggested that future work programmes in the water sector should include activities on the preparation of guidelines for the improvement of existing water resources development projects and on the preparation of recommended measures for rational allocation of water among various sectors and practical measures to avoid potential conflicts.

Mineral resources

498. The Commission noted the continued expansion in mineral exploration and mining activities in many of the countries of the ESCAP region during the past few years, which had been followed by a strong demand for a number of minerals and metals. Particular interest was focused on privatization of mining and the development of appropriate legal and investment regimes by member countries so as to attract foreign investment for the development of mineral resources. It noted that the secretariat had provided advisory services and information on mineral resource endowments and urged it to continue those efforts.

499. The Commission expressed considerable satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work in the mineral sector, and urged the secretariat to continue to be active in that field. It noted requests to ESCAP and UNDP from its member countries to formulate a mineral resources inventory programme covering all ESCAP subregions and to formulate and conduct training programmes on mineral resource reserve estimation and on various aspects of mineral trading and commodity exchanges. The Commission requested the secretariat to consider establishing an appropriate mechanism to access marketing information by ESCAP member countries, including the private sector, on minerals and mineral-based products, particularly on those not quoted in the commodity exchanges.

500. The Commission noted the progress made in the implementation of the UNDP-funded intercountry project on training in mineral resources development, which focused on the needs of the least developed countries in Asia, and expressed satisfaction with the project's training and consultancy activities undertaken during the first year in the assessment, development and management of mineral resources. In that regard, the Commission urged the secretariat to request UNDP to provide continued financial support for the extension of the project to cover the biennium 1992-1993.

501. The Commission further noted that the training programme under the ESCAP/UNDP project on mineral resources development for 1991 would concentrate on various mineral exploration techniques and metallic and non-metallic mineral commodities assessment methodologies, and on the provision of advisory services with regard to investment policy and mining law in the member countries of the region. It expressed appreciation of the offers made by India and Indonesia to host relevant training programmes in specialized fields, and the offer by China to share its expertise in geology and mineral resources assessment through TCDC arrangements.

502. The Commission noted with satisfaction the accomplishments of the programme on environmental and urban geology, which had resulted in the provision of technical assistance to the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam on assessment of coastal lowland hazards and the organization of three meetings in Malaysia and in Thailand, and encouraged the secretariat to arrange for additional technical assistance and cooperation with regard to environmental and urban geology and the development of suitable thematic maps for the use of planners and decision makers in coastal zone management.

503. The Commission noted that the secretariat had identified a programme for the compilation during the biennium 1992-1993 of volcanic and seismic hazard maps of Asia and the Pacific, and stated that such information was a vital prerequisite in all development activities in the region, with particular reference to the expansion of urban population centres. It also expressed the view that such maps would assist in the implementation of disaster mitigation programmes in areas subjected to such geohazards. The Commission noted that an international symposium on geological hazard prevention and mitigation was scheduled to be held at Beijing in October 1991.

504. The Commission expressed appreciation of the collaborative and host country support in the areas of urban geology, mineral exploration and marine affairs extended by the Governments of France, Japan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Thailand, the USSR and Viet Nam, and by UNDP and the

Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP).

Marine affairs

505. The Commission noted with appreciation the integrated and multidisciplinary approach pursued by the secretariat in the implementation of marine affairs activities within the context of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It also noted that the activities covered such areas as the understanding of issues related to marine affairs activities prior to ratification of the Convention, and the establishment of effective legal and administrative regimes with a view to facilitating coordination of marine affairs activities among various ministries and agencies at the national level.

506. The Commission commended the secretariat on having taken steps to assist member countries in implementing their national marine policies within the framework of the 1982 Convention. It noted with satisfaction that the secretariat had published two country studies on the implications of the new ocean regimes in Indonesia and Thailand, and urged that such studies be extended to other countries within the region.

507. The Commission noted that the secretariat had identified programmes on assessment of coastal and nearshore mineral and hydrocarbon resources potential and on training in implementation of integrated national marine affairs policies under the 1982 Convention, for implementation in 1992-1993. In that regard, it noted requests from its member countries that regular seminars be organized on marine research, exploration, exploitation and management of marine mineral resources and on marine pollution problems in various countries of the ESCAP region, so as to ensure proper dissemination and interaction among scientists in that field.

Remote sensing and geographic information systems technology

508. The Commission recognized that remote sensing and GIS technologies were newly emerging technologies of a multidisciplinary nature. It noted that development and applications of the technologies had been assigned highest priority in many member countries in the region, since they were widely used as important tools for sustainable natural resources and environment management and as essential means for providing information for development planning and decision-making. However, the Commission also noted that remote sensing and GIS technologies were dynamic and fast developing, and therefore exchange of information and training of specialists, planners, managers and decision makers to make them responsive to technological developments, and coordination of the technology applications, had remained crucial issues of common concern in the region.

509. The Commission noted with great concern that despite rapid development and broadening use of the technologies in the region, developing countries of the region, particularly the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries with limited resources, were still unable to be sufficiently self-reliant to derive benefit from the technologies owing to financial and institutional constraints, as well as lack of expertise. It was realized that those constraints could be alleviated through enhanced regional and international cooperation mechanisms, including TCDC collaboration with countries of the region having relative advantage in specific areas of technology development and applications.

510. The Commission observed that regional coordination and collaboration in the field of remote sensing applications had already been initiated by ESCAP and UNDP through the Regional Remote Sensing Programme (RRSP). It also observed that the establishment of RRSP had had a strong impact on technology development and applications at both national and regional levels. The Commission was of the view that RRSP had been instrumental in promoting sound technological development and full utilization of available technology in member countries in a most effective way. The Commission noted particularly that an effective network on regional cooperation for technology transfer and information exchange had been established under RRSP.

511. The Commission expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the performance of RRSP and considered it a most effective and efficient regional cooperation mechanism. It noted that participating member countries had gained substantially from the numerous training activities, seminars, workshops, information services, multi-country application pilot projects and consultancy services provided by RRSP. It commended highly the network approach and TCDC arrangements of the programme, which were of particular importance and relevance to the least developed countries and small countries with limited resources. It was strongly recommended that those efforts towards regional coordination and collaboration should be pursued.

512. The Commission expressed deep appreciation of the financial support provided by UNDP to RRSP. In view of the great success of RRSP and the great demand for its uninterrupted service, the Commission recommended overwhelmingly the continuation of UNDP funding for the Programme during the UNDP programming cycle 1992-1996. UNDP noted that its further assistance to remote sensing, including modalities of implementation, would be considered in consultation with interested donors, as well as during the annual meeting of the Directors of the National Remote Sensing Centres/Programmes to be held in August 1991, which would also provide an opportunity to establish linkages with ongoing country projects in that area. Noting the importance of having time-bound regional projects and the necessity for long-term sustainability of the needed services, the Commission strongly urged the secretariat to take immediate action to create a regular programme on remote sensing and GIS within the secretariat. It urged the secretariat to mobilize extrabudgetary funds to ensure quality planning and management of activities on selective dimensions of space applications involving, *inter alia*, natural resources accounting, natural disasters, environmental monitoring and planning, technology, and agricultural and human development. The suggestion was made that the secretariat should explore the possibility of establishing a space science and technology application centre for the ESCAP region in the long term.

513. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 47/8 on regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems.

514. The Commission expressed gratitude to Australia, China, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and the USSR for providing financial support or host facilities to RRSP activities in 1990 and 1991. It also expressed appreciation to Japan, the USSR and the United States of their offers to provide information on new-generation remote sensing data, or to send experts to promote regional remote sensing cooperation.

515. The Commission also acknowledged the offers of the Governments of India, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran to host sessions of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on RRSP and meetings of the Directors of National Remote Sensing Centres/Programmes in 1991, 1992 and 1993 respectively. It also noted with appreciation the offer of the USSR to support RRSP activities by hosting a seminar on remote sensing applications for environmental geology in 1992, and conducting a pilot project-cum-workshop on petroleum exploration in the ESCAP region using remote sensing techniques in 1993, provided that funds were available.

Natural disaster reduction

516. The Commission expressed appreciation of the wide range of activities and the voluminous work undertaken by the secretariat in the field of natural disaster reduction and expressed strong support for the continuation of those activities since the 1990s had been designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

517. The Commission directed the secretariat to continue to accord the highest priority to its work on natural disaster reduction, particularly to the activities on reduction of water-related natural disasters. In addition to the activities to be implemented under the support programme for the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, the Commission directed the secretariat to undertake studies and advisory missions and organize training seminars and expert group meetings on reduction of water-related natural disasters; it particularly directed the secretariat to convene a workshop on cyclonic storm hydrology, and urged donors to provide funding for that activity and for other activities on natural disaster reduction.

518. The Commission noted with satisfaction the continuing interest in the identification and assessment of geological hazards in the Asian and Pacific region and commended the ESCAP activities on the mitigation of geological hazards. It directed the secretariat to accord the highest priority to activities on geologic hazards, followed by the development of concepts and techniques for the mitigation of hazards, since information on those areas was a prerequisite for developing alternative models for emergency management.

519. The Commission noted the interest of its member countries in continuing cooperative efforts towards the mitigation of geological hazards, and in particular the proposal from China to conduct, in collaboration with ESCAP, a pilot project on comprehensive assessment of geological hazards of the Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan experimental area, including exchange of information, experience and training.

520. The Commission directed the secretariat to employ remote sensing and GIS technologies to natural disaster reduction as far as they were applicable, particularly in such activities as flood plain development and flood monitoring. It urged UNDP and other donors to provide funding for activities on natural disaster reduction.

521. The Commission was informed that the United States had recently prepared a map of the natural hazards of the Pacific Basin, which could be made available to those interested. It was also informed of the action taken by some countries towards the achievement of the goals of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, such as the establishment of national committees and centres responsible for emergency operations.

522. The Commission expressed appreciation to China and Japan of their continuing support to activities on natural disaster reduction and of their readiness to share information and expertise with other countries.

523. The representative of WHO presented an account of the activities of WHO on reduction of the adverse impact of disasters, and confirmed the readiness of his Organization to cooperate closely with ESCAP and other organizations in the implementation of the activities under the Decade.

524. The representative of UNDP mentioned that resident representatives of UNDP, in their capacity as resident coordinators of the operational activities of the United Nations system, had the responsibility of coordinating that system's response to national disasters at the country level, and that they had also been designated as the focal points at the country level for the Decade; furthermore, the resident representatives of UNDP were *ex officio* representatives of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator.

Population, including multidisciplinary regional population strategies for the 1990s

525. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/778, E/ESCAP/779, E/ESCAP/780 and E/ESCAP/781.

526. In endorsing the report of the Committee on Population and Social Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/778), the Commission stressed the need for a comprehensive, multisectoral approach in addressing population issues, with a greater emphasis on the qualitative aspects, while giving due importance to meeting quantitative targets for population control and enhancing the quality of life.

527. In considering document E/ESCAP/779, the Commission commended the secretariat on the preparations for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference to be hosted by the Government of Indonesia in 1992 with the theme "Population and sustainable development: goals and

strategies into the twenty-first century". The Commission noted with satisfaction that UNFPA had agreed to co-sponsor that ministerial-level Conference and provide generous support for holding the Conference and its preparatory activities. The Commission observed that the preparatory activities and the Conference itself would produce an analysis of the major population issues from a regional perspective which could provide valuable inputs for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992 and the international conference on population and development to be held in 1994. While endorsing the theme, agenda topics and preparatory activities of the Conference, the Commission observed that subtopics on policies and programmes for full involvement of men in fertility reduction, and on policies and programmes for delaying marriages, should be incorporated in the discussion under appropriate agenda items.

528. In considering document E/ESCAP/780, the Commission noted that the ESCAP region contained more than 56 per cent of the world population and that the demographic levels and trends varied considerably among the countries and subregions of the region. It observed that the world population scenario would therefore largely depend on the efforts of developing countries of the ESCAP region to solve their population problems. It further observed that while each country had the primary responsibility for solving its own population problems based on the prevailing situation, international resources should be made available to support the self-help efforts of each country in implementing its population policies.

529. The Commission observed that population issues currently encompassed areas of concern such as poverty alleviation, environmental degradation, the role and status of women and the quality of life in general, which were much broader than the issues of population size and growth alone. It therefore emphasized that population policies and programmes in the 1990s should adopt a multisectoral approach to cope with those and other emerging issues. In that context, the Commission noted that the countries of the Asian and Pacific region still faced enormous problems of gathering and analysing the data required to address those issues adequately. It therefore requested the secretariat to undertake multidisciplinary studies on those issues in order to enhance knowledge on the interrelationship of the factors involved and to enable appropriate policy guidelines to be developed.

530. The Commission commended the secretariat on providing technical assistance and advisory services in the population field and hoped that those useful services would be expanded as population issues became more complex and urgent. It noted that the secretariat was experiencing an increasing demand for technical assistance and advisory services from the developing countries of the region. The Commission recalled its resolution 46/1 of 13 June 1990, in which it had requested the Executive Secretary to take steps to strengthen the secretariat's capability in the area of population.

531. The Commission noted that most of the countries of the Asian and Pacific region would have completed the 1990s round of population censuses by the end of 1991 and expressed satisfaction that the secretariat planned to intensify its provision of technical assistance and advisory services in the demographic analysis of population census data, and in the effective dissemination and utilization of relevant findings.

532. The Commission recognized that the family was the basic unit of society, with the crucial role of building a resilient future generation, and emphasized the importance of family development activities to strengthen the family institution, especially the aspects of parenting, child development, family life education and home economics, as they related to other population issues.

533. The Commission observed that an increasing number of countries were experiencing a significant change in their age structure resulting from the prolongation of life and a growing elderly population, which would require an increased diversification of welfare programmes for the ageing in order to meet the needs of the twenty-first century. The countries of the region were therefore urged to prepare plans and policies for integrating the elderly into the development process and for meeting the increased demands for services oriented towards them.

534. The Commission noted that it was still premature to claim that the problem of population growth in the region had now been largely solved. It observed that the implementation of more effective family planning services and appropriate population programmes would therefore remain a great challenge in the 1990s and beyond, and noted that for many countries it was necessary to develop an integrated approach to family planning, with special emphasis on maternal and child health services.

535. The Commission stressed the need to improve the efficiency of family planning programme evaluation and urged the secretariat to organize programmes to train family planning evaluation personnel in suitable techniques.

536. Because men had often been neglected as beneficiaries of family planning programmes, the Commission emphasized the importance of fully involving men as well as women in family planning programmes.

537. The Commission stressed that improvement in the role and status of women was essential for upgrading the quality of life of the population. Women's participation at all levels of population programmes was necessary for the effective implementation of those programmes.

538. The Commission noted that high population growth was associated with poverty and observed that population welfare must be included in national strategies for human resources development and poverty alleviation. It further observed that the phenomenon of inequality in land and income distribution also needed to be addressed in connection with population welfare, and recommended that the secretariat undertake a study on the population-poverty interlinkage with a view to examining possible poverty alleviation strategies.

539. The Commission recognized the importance of non-governmental organizations, particularly those

involved in population activities, and urged members and associate members to support those organizations in stimulating awareness of population and related problems, highlighting the consequences of rapid population growth and suggesting remedial measures.

540. The Commission observed that migration from rural to urban areas continued at a rapid pace in many countries of the region, and it was often beyond the capacity of towns, cities and metropolitan areas to cope with the increasing numbers. That had resulted in serious environmental problems and shortages of basic urban services. Urban development would thus be a crucial issue to be integrated into national development plans. In that regard, the Commission, stressing that an adequate response to those problems required access to reliable data and information for planning purposes, urged the secretariat to undertake policy-related research to assess the impact of population redistribution as a basis for effective urban planning.

541. In response to the increasing scale of international migration, particularly outmigration of educated persons from the region, the Commission requested the secretariat to undertake studies on the implications of that brain drain.

542. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 47/9 on international cooperation on labour migration between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions.

543. The Commission emphasized the need to improve the overall awareness of population issues, and requested the secretariat to assist developing countries in building up their information dissemination capabilities, using appropriate information, education and communication techniques, and to help them improve the content and presentation of their population publications.

544. Recognizing the importance of TCDC as a sound approach to the transfer of technology and experience, the Commission noted with satisfaction the many TCDC promotional activities in the area of population, and expressed appreciation to the Governments of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand of their special contributions in that regard.

545. The Commission commended the secretariat's ongoing cooperative efforts with UNFPA to develop national population information centres and networks in the region through the provision of technical assistance, fellowships, study tours, training courses, and publication and information support services, and urged UNFPA and the secretariat to broaden their partnership in that important regional activity.

546. The Commission also noted the secretariat's coordination of the population information centres as members of the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network (Asia-Pacific POPIN), and endorsed the concept of intercountry cooperation through regional networking to foster the sharing of knowledge and expertise among the developing countries of the region.

547. The Commission took note of the efforts of several national POPIN centres in the region to use computers and telecommunication technologies to enhance the exchange of population data and information at the national and regional levels, and urged the secretariat to strengthen its support to those centres and their in-country networks. In particular, the Commission endorsed plans by the national POPIN centres to demonstrate several prototype applications of those technologies at the forthcoming Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference scheduled for 1992. The Commission further recommended expansion of the regional grants programme which provided matching funds to national POPIN centres for the production of computerized directory databases and the translation of selected publications into national languages.

548. The Commission noted with satisfaction the close collaboration between the secretariat, WHO and UNESCO in various programmes, including coordination of information networking activities, and urged their continued technical collaboration.

549. The Commission encouraged the secretariat to strengthen its cooperation and coordination with UNFPA and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system involved in population activities, with relevant international organizations, donor countries, and population assistance programmes sponsored by ESCAP members.

550. In adopting the programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993 and the programme changes for 1991 in population as contained in document E/ESCAP/781, the Commission emphasized the importance of the multisectoral aspect of the programme for coping with the emerging population issues. It noted that the main activities in population during the biennium would centre on: the organization of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference; policy development through research, training and technical assistance; further development of population programme management; and improvement of information support to the member countries. It welcomed the secretariat's proposal for new activities, such as studies relating to the interrelationship between population, environment and resources, improvement of the status of women and their participation in population and development programmes, and the introduction of new programme strategies for the improvement of national family planning programmes.

Social development

551. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/778, E/ESCAP/782, E/ESCAP/783, E/ESCAP/784, E/ESCAP/785 and E/ESCAP/786. It commended the excellent quality of those documents and expressed satisfaction with the secretariat's work as reflected in those documents.

552. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Population and Social Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/778), with special reference to those sections and paragraphs pertaining to social development.

553. The Commission approved subprogramme 11, Social development, in the proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993, as well as the proposed programme changes in the field of social development for 1991, as contained in document

E/ESCAP/782. It noted that 60 work-months of regular budget resources of the subprogramme on social development had been redeployed to the new subprogrammes on human resources development and women in development.

554. The Commission noted that the secretariat had been called upon to implement an expanded programme of activities in the field of drug abuse demand control, including the organization of meetings of national personnel on approaches to drug abuse demand reduction and seminars and training workshops for drug abuse control personnel; development of an information base on drug abuse demand policies and programmes; activation of a regional network of national agencies concerned with demand aspects of drug abuse reduction; and the provision of advisory services to Governments and non-governmental organizations. In order to permit the implementation of those requested additional activities, many delegations supported the addition of one Professional post to the secretariat's existing regular budget resources. Two delegations requested that the additional post required to undertake the above activities be acquired through redeployment.

Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development

555. The Commission received a report on the preparations under way for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, to be held at Manila from 7 to 11 October 1991 (E/ESCAP/786). It noted that the agenda and time-frame of the Conference had been approved by the Committee on Population and Social Development at its second session. That approval was reiterated by the Commission. The Commission was also informed about the activities under way with respect to the preparation of a regional social development strategy, which would be the theme of the Ministerial Conference. A meeting of eminent persons to finalize the draft social development strategy would be held at Beijing from 15 to 19 July 1991. In addition, an inter-agency meeting would be held at Bangkok in August 1991, and an NGO/media symposium would be convened at Manila from 7 to 9 October 1991. The Commission endorsed those activities as being useful and appropriate.

556. The representative of the Philippines informed the Commission that the President of the Philippines had accepted the invitation of the Executive Secretary to be present at the opening session of the Ministerial Conference and that, in order to undertake the necessary preparations for the Conference, the Government had established the National Organizing Committee for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Development, chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. That national interdepartmental Committee had undertaken preparatory activities on behalf of the host Government in consultation with the ESCAP secretariat. The Memorandum of Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of the Philippines regarding the arrangements for the Ministerial Conference had been signed in December 1990.

557. In view of the high priority assigned to the formulation of a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond, the Commission urged the ministers responsible for social welfare and development in all members and associate members to attend the Conference, which would set the pace for social development policy and planning in the ESCAP region for the coming decade. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 47/12 on regional follow-up of the World Summit for Children.

Social aspects of rural development

558. The Commission considered the "Report on social aspects of rural development" (E/ESCAP/783). The report presented an overview of key social issues in the rural context, reviewed the major approaches to meeting those social issues and presented a series of policy recommendations at both the national and regional levels. The Commission endorsed the recommendations contained in the report.

559. Several delegations informed the Commission of the programmes that had been initiated in their countries to deal with social problems in rural areas. One approach was to promote integrated rural area development, focusing particularly on the very low income groups; in some cases, those programmes had also been extended to urban areas. The programmes covered such matters of concern as housing, income generation, primary health care, clean water, sanitation and environment management. In support of such programmes, social welfare offices, public housing projects, public health centres and integrated health service posts, and other facilities, had been extended to rural and isolated communities in order to promote the social welfare of the people.

560. The Commission referred to the necessity of involving all sectors in the delivery of social services to rural communities, as well as of ensuring coordination in the delivery of those services through appropriate mechanisms. It stressed, in that regard, the need to enhance the capabilities of non-governmental organizations in the delivery of social services to rural and isolated communities. It was pointed out that there was a need to enhance the exchange of information among ESCAP members and associate members concerning the social aspects of rural development policy and planning and that that should include information on the means of strengthening, monitoring and evaluating activities.

Basic education

561. The Commission considered the "Report on the implementation of Commission resolution 46/5 on regional follow-up of the World Conference on Education for All - Meeting Basic Learning Needs" (E/ESCAP/784). That report presented the conclusions of the Meeting of Senior Officials on a Programme of Action in Support of Education for All in the ESCAP Region, which had been held at Bangkok from 29 to 31 October 1990 with the close cooperation of the UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The report presented, in annex I, guidelines for action in support of education for all in the ESCAP region and, in annex II, statements by concerned United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental organizations outlining their specific support measures for national

and regional programmes in pursuit of education for all in the ESCAP region.

562. With a view to ensuring a sustained region-wide campaign to achieve education for all, the Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Meeting of Senior Officials and adopted the guidelines for action in support of education for all in the ESCAP region as a policy basis for further activities at the national and regional levels.

563. The Commission stressed that the final responsibility for formulating and implementing activities in pursuit of education for all would necessarily rest with the individual members and associate members themselves. The Commission therefore urged Governments in the region, in close consultation with ESCAP, UNESCO and other concerned United Nations bodies and agencies, to set national targets for education for all, particularly for female education; to devise and mount programmes and projects to achieve those targets; to mobilize the necessary organizations and financial assistance; to form the necessary partnerships and alliances; and to generate the public policy commitments to sustain those efforts.

564. With respect to generating the financial resources required for effective implementation of the guidelines for action in support of education for all, the Commission recommended that Governments should take fully into account the possibilities of redirecting resources within the education sector, expanding the educational base in the public sector and mobilizing resources for the promotion of education in the private sector. Additional financial and technical support could be sought from donor Governments and regional organizations as well as from the wider international community. In that respect, the representative of the United States informed the Commission of her Government's offer of technical assistance in the development of management information systems, in the adaptation of technological innovations for learning to augment the quality of rural formal education, as well as to reach those who did not have access to formal education, and in support of educational partnerships with selected Asian and Pacific institutions.

565. The Commission noted the successful inter-agency coordination that had marked the formulation of the regional guidelines for action on education for all, as well as the planning of follow-up activities. It expressed satisfaction, in particular, with UNESCO participation in the implementation of Commission resolution 46/5, and called for strengthening of ESCAP cooperation with UNESCO and other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and international organizations in providing support to concerned countries of the region towards the eradication of illiteracy and the achievement of universal primary education.

Drug abuse control

566. The Commission considered the "Report of the Meeting of Senior Officials on Drug Abuse Issues in Asia and the Pacific" (E/ESCAP/785). The report contained a summary of the deliberations of the Meeting of Senior Officials concerning the following issues: illicit drug trafficking and money laundering; illicit drug production in the "Golden Triangle" and other areas; illicit drug production in the "Golden Crescent"; drug abuse prevention; and drug abuse rehabilitation. A number of delegations referred to their Governments' views that the Meeting had been of particular importance because it had marked the first occasion in which Governments had met at the regional level to discuss that major issue, and because the conclusions that had been reached at the Meeting constituted a major milestone towards regional cooperation in the field of drug abuse control. The Commission endorsed the report of the Meeting.

567. The report of the Meeting included, as an annex, the Tokyo Declaration on Enhanced Regional Co-operation for Drug Abuse Control in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission welcomed that Declaration and endorsed it. It noted the invitation to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) contained in that Declaration to study the feasibility of establishing a coordinating centre on drug abuse issues in Asia and the Pacific. It agreed that UNIDCP should, for that purpose, in close consultation with ESCAP, form a working group of interested Governments, as well as ESCAP and other relevant international organizations, to study the functions, resources, staffing and location of such a centre.

568. Several delegations called the Commission's attention to the need to avoid duplication of activities, and voiced concern that the proposed coordinating centre on drug abuse issues might duplicate activities already under way within the secretariat and in other United Nations and intergovernmental bodies and agencies working in the region. Several delegations also referred to the need to avoid proliferation of institutions dealing with drug abuse control issues and noted, in that connection, the scarcity of financial resources available for institutional support. The question was also raised whether the proposed centre would cover the entire Asian and Pacific region or only the "Golden Triangle" subregion. In view of those concerns, the Commission welcomed the invitation contained in the Tokyo Declaration for ESCAP to enter into consultations with UNIDCP and join a working group to study the feasibility of establishing such a centre.

569. The scourge of drug abuse was recognized by the Commission as posing an increasingly serious social problem in the ESCAP region. It was noted that drug abuse not only affected growing numbers of people caught in the grip of drug dependency but also contributed to the distortion of vital social institutions. Various delegations referred to growing concern regarding such social problems as corruption, crime, family violence and dissolution, prostitution and AIDS in connection with the spread of drug abuse in the region. In view of the urgency of the drug abuse problem in the Asian and Pacific region, the Commission requested the secretariat to intensify its activities concerning the demand aspects of drug abuse control. Many delegations supported the proposal contained in the proposed programme of work, 1992-1993, for an additional regular budget post under the subprogramme on social development to implement the expanded range of activities requested by the Commission in that field. Two delegations requested that the additional post required to undertake the above activities be acquired through redeployment.

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oriented studies on development issues in the countries and use the findings to provide policy options and to formulate, in association with the relevant countries, appropriate national and regional strategies. Such studies should be multisectoral and interdisciplinary and should emphasize the need for effective coordination in the pursuit of sustainable development. In that context, the Commission welcomed the proposal to set up an advisory board on development policy. The terms of reference of the advisory board would have to be worked out carefully to reflect the scope and modalities of its work as well as the views expressed by delegations. One delegation doubted whether such a board was needed and wondered whether the function envisaged for it, the provision of an intellectual stimulus and appropriate guidance to the secretariat, was not forthcoming from the Commission itself.

693. The Commission also welcomed the proposal to publish an ESCAP journal, which should be scholarly and feature learned articles on development issues in the region and in member countries. Authorship of articles in the journal should not be restricted to ESCAP staff members but should be extended to include professionals from countries in the region and from intergovernmental and international institutions. Such a journal would strengthen the research capability of ESCAP, enhance its image within the region and world wide, and increase communication between the secretariat and member countries, as well as among the countries themselves.

694. The Commission was of the opinion that there would be a need to restructure the secretariat consequent upon the adoption of the thematic approach to its work. In making changes in the intergovernmental structure, it should be borne in mind that in order to realize the benefits of the thematic approach the secretariat should be enabled to respond flexibly. In that context, the Commission viewed with approbation the proposal of the Group of Eminent Persons that consideration be given to recruiting professionals, including from universities and research institutions, on short-term contracts of three to five years. It requested the Executive Secretary to give serious attention to the matter and pursue it with the appropriate authorities.

695. On the question of additional resources for the secretariat, while generally subscribing to the policy of zero real growth in the budget of the United Nations, several delegations recognized that the resources available to it from the regular budget of the United Nations were not commensurate with the needs of its vast region and had remained static for more than a decade. There was scope for remedying that imbalance, given the fact that the Commission served 56 per cent of the world's population and had to alleviate the sufferings of more than 75 per cent of the world's poor. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to take up the matter with the Secretary-General in an appropriate manner.

696. The Commission expressed appreciation of the generous extrabudgetary assistance provided by various donor Governments and international funding agencies. It requested those Governments and agencies to continue their support to ESCAP as it embarked upon a reoriented and well-focused programme of work.

697. The Commission expressed satisfaction that ACPR, given its structure and its representation, was performing well as an advisory body to the Executive Secretary, and serving a very useful purpose. The suggestion was made that its role should be strengthened and that it be given additional responsibility to attend to the ongoing work of the Commission between its annual sessions. However, not all members and associate members were represented on ACPR, and at present the Commission had not made it a legal subsidiary body of the Commission able to take up functions similar to those of the legislative committees.

698. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 47/3 on restructuring the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission.

Announcement of intended contributions

699. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/800.

700. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that, with total cash contributions of about $US 26.7 million in 1990, ESCAP extrabudgetary funding for 1990 had surpassed the funding provided by the regular budget by a significant margin of about 38 per cent. Thus, the importance of extrabudgetary resources in implementing the ESCAP programme of work had increased considerably.

701. With regard to the sources of cash contributions in 1990, the Executive Secretary noted that about 58.3 per cent had come from the United Nations system, with UNDP, which had contributed about $US 12 million, ranking as the largest extrabudgetary donor. Donor countries had contributed about $US 11 million, and developing countries about $US 3.7 million.

702. The Executive Secretary mentioned that the establishment of cooperation funds between ESCAP and developing countries, such as the China-ESCAP Co-operation Projects and the Korea-ESCAP Co-operation Fund, reflected a growing sense of commitment to the ESCAP programme of work on the part of members in the region. They represented a welcome addition to contributions from traditional donors and facilitated the implementation of many programme activities. He expressed the hope that more developing countries in the region would follow suit.

703. In expressing deep gratitude for all the extrabudgetary cash contributions, as well as for the contributions in kind, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the provision of 44 experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis by donors had augmented the secretariat's regular budget and project staff in 1990. The distribution of extrabudgetary cash contributions had reflected the generous response of donor Governments and agencies to the various priorities established by the Commission, particularly the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, and the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human

The family in social development

570. The Commission reaffirmed the view that the family, as the basic organizational entity upon which societies were built and perpetuated, was of critical policy concern in the context of national efforts to enhance social development. It was pointed out that the family provided an essential environment in which physical care, mutual support and emotional security were available to foster the development of children and youth into healthy and responsible members of society. It also served as the primary source of support and strength in the care of the infirm and the elderly as well as disabled persons, and as a main contributor to the rehabilitation and re-entry into the social and economic mainstream of delinquents, drug abusers and the like. The Commission noted that the socio-economic changes taking place in the ESCAP region severely affected the structure and functions of the family. It felt that there was a need to preserve and strengthen the family as a basic social unit, particularly in the circumstances of exceptional social stress that inevitably accompanied the development process.

571. The Commission recognized that the trend towards nuclear families, the ageing of families owing to out-migration of younger family members, the increasing number of households with both parents working, and the emergence of single-parent households owing to family breakdown as well as rural-urban and international labour migration, had affected traditional family structures, roles, expectations and values and had, in particular, adversely affected the provision of support services to such vulnerable groups as women, children and youth, the elderly and disabled persons. In that regard, the Commission pointed to the important role of the family in reducing the demand for drugs and in curbing youth crime in the region.

572. The Commission expressed support for the activities of the secretariat related to the family in development. It noted with appreciation that policy options concerning the family as a basic social institution were to be included in the regional social development strategy for consideration at the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development.

573. The Commission noted that 1994 had been proclaimed by the General Assembly as International Year of the Family. In that regard, it called upon all members and associate members to establish national coordinating mechanisms to prepare for, observe and follow-up the Year, in particular for the purposes of planning, stimulating and harmonizing the activities of all government agencies, non-governmental organizations and other national and international entities concerned with the preparation for and observance of the Year. The Commission directed the secretariat to organize in 1993 a regional intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the observance of the Year.

574. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 47/13 on the International Year of the Family.

Disadvantaged groups in social development

575. Attention was drawn to the significance of the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992) as an opportunity for renewing efforts towards the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons in the Asian and Pacific region. In that connection, the Commission expressed its support of the secretariat's activities to generate public awareness of disability issues at the community level and to maximize the development of the self-help potential of people with disabilities. Appreciation was expressed to the Government of Japan of its financial assistance, including the provision of a project expert, to the secretariat's activities to promote the development of self-help organizations of disabled persons.

576. The Commission recognized the need for increased regional support to the developing countries of the ESCAP region preparing for the phenomenal increase in the number of elderly persons in those countries in the 1990s and the early decades of the next century. Within the context of discussions concerning the role of the family in development, several delegations pointed to the issues of health, housing, income support and other care arrangements for elderly persons as being of immediate concern in societies undergoing rapid social and economic transformation. The Commission noted that regional support in that regard should also address the effects on the situation of the elderly of eroding social and cultural values as development proceeded.

577. The Commission considered major issues concerning the situation and participation of youth in national development in the ESCAP region. It stressed the importance of promotion of comprehensive youth policies covering such important areas as formal education, functional literacy, skills training, employment access mechanisms and income-generating opportunities. The Commission agreed on the important roles that the family, the community and non-governmental organizations could play in the field of youth and development. The Commission's particular attention was drawn to the importance of national coordination in the implementation of youth policies and programmes, and to the need for regional support measures in that regard.

578. The Commission noted the rising regional trend of crime, particularly among young people, which had serious negative impacts on development. The adverse influences promoting criminogenic behaviour among youth, such as lack of basic education, chronic unemployment, drug abuse and family breakdown, were noted and the roles that the family, community and non-governmental organizations could play to counter that trend were underscored. The Commission called for the secretariat's continued provision of advisory services and organization of opportunities for the exchange of views and information on the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the rehabilitation of offenders. It noted with appreciation that the secretariat, with the generous assistance of the Government of Japan, was providing advisory services on crime prevention with emphasis on juvenile crime issues. The Commission was also pleased to note that the secretariat's work in the field of crime prevention was closely coordinated with the activities of the

United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI).

Non-governmental organizations and the delivery of social services

579. The Commission underscored the importance of the complementary roles of non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies in the promotion of integrated social development in the region. In that regard, it noted with satisfaction the success of the Seminar on Co-operation between Government Agencies and Non-governmental Organizations in the Planning and Delivery of Social Services, held in Hong Kong in December 1990 in collaboration with the Hong Kong Council for Social Services and with the generous financial support of the Government of the Netherlands. Emphasizing the importance of improved cooperation between government agencies and non-governmental organizations in the field of social development, the Commission directed the secretariat to undertake follow-up activities in line with the recommendations of that Seminar. The view was expressed that non-governmental organizations should be involved in the formulation of the regional social development strategy currently being prepared by the secretariat for presentation at the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development.

Social Development Newsletter

580. The Commission attached importance to the regional exchange of information on social development issues. In that regard, it expressed the view that the *Social Development Newsletter* served as a very valuable reference source. It requested the secretariat to continue to issue the *Newsletter* on a regular basis, with each issue focusing on a specific social development issue of regional concern. Some delegations suggested that the *Newsletter* should be made available in the national languages of members and associate members so that it could be circulated more widely among concerned institutions and individuals in the region.

Human Rights Depository Centre

581. The Commission was informed of the secretariat's implementation of resolution 45/2 of 5 April 1989 on the establishment of a depository centre for United Nations human rights materials. In that resolution, the Executive Secretary had been requested to pursue, within existing resources, the establishment of a depository centre for United Nations human rights materials in the ESCAP region, the functions of which would include the collection, processing and dissemination of such materials. The secretariat reported that, in implementation of that resolution, it had made its collection of documentary materials and other publications on human rights issues in the Asian and Pacific region as comprehensive as possible by collecting and processing materials from the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, as well as from all other sources available to the secretariat in the region and globally. The ESCAP library disseminated bibliographic information on its holdings of human rights documents and other publications, as it did on all subjects, upon request. The secretariat noted that, if the Commission should decide that the library should become a disseminating centre for human rights materials (in hard copy, as against annotated references as was currently the case), it would be necessary to develop an expanded clearing-house type of operation, for which additional resources would be required.

Other matters

582. The Commission noted with appreciation the secretariat's continued close collaboration with various other United Nations bodies and agencies involved in social issues, especially UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO, as well as its close collaboration with major regional- and national-level non-governmental organizations concerned with social development.

583. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Governments of Australia, China, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for their generous financial support of the secretariat's work in the field of social development. It expressed appreciation to the Governments of China, India, Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines of the provision of host facilities, technical expertise and financial support in connection with various meetings and training activities undertaken in those countries. The contributions provided by various United Nations agencies and bodies, including UNICEF, UNAFEI and WHO, were also acknowledged with thanks. In addition, the Commission thanked various non-governmental organizations, including Asia-Pacific Regional Council of Disabled Peoples' International, Asia Community Trust, Canadian University Services Overseas, Korean National Commission for UNESCO, World Council of Churches, Christian Conference of Asia, and Young Men's Christian Associations of Japan and the Republic of Korea, for their contributions to the ESCAP programme on social development.

Women in development

584. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/778, E/ESCAP/787 and E/ESCAP/788.

585. It endorsed the report of the Committee on Population and Social Development (E/ESCAP/778), with special reference to those sections and paragraphs pertaining to women in development.

586. The Commission welcomed the establishment of a separate intersectoral subprogramme on women in development under the medium-term plan for 1992-1997. It approved the proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993, with specific reference to subprogramme 16 on women in development (E/ESCAP/788).

587. The Commission expressed appreciation of the generous financial support extended by the Governments of Finland, the Netherlands and Norway to the secretariat's programme of work in the field of women in development.

588. It referred to certain critical regional concerns which required priority attention by the secretariat.

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energy, transport, urbanization and the environment, and EPOC. Details of the contributions had been indicated during the preceding discussions on item 7 of the agenda. The amount also included a contribution of F 1.85 million to the Interim Mekong Committee.

715. ***India***. The representative of India announced that his Government would contribute $US 100,000 to APCTT.

716. ***Indonesia***. The representative of Indonesia announced the following contributions:

	$US
APCTT	10,000
SIAP	40,000
RNAM	9,000
CGPRT Centre	Rp 70 million

In addition, Indonesia would contribute $US 40,000 to CCOP, $US 47,300 to APDC, $US 59,753 to CIRDAP and $M 582,152 to the SEATRAD Centre.

717. ***Islamic Republic of Iran***. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced the following intended contributions:

	$US
(a) ESCAP programme of work	12,000
(b) APCTT	3,000

718. ***Japan***. The representative of Japan advised the Commission that the likely level of the programmable resource base in 1991 would be approximately $US 6 million, subject to parliamentary approval. That amount also included the intended contributions to SIAP in 1991, which would be increased substantially from the 1990 level. In addition, the Government of Japan would continue to provide JICA (Japan International Co-operation Agency) training courses and expert services on a non-reimbursable loan basis, subject to parliamentary approval.

719. ***Kiribati***. The representative of Kiribati announced that his Government would contribute $US 1,000 to SIAP.

720. ***Malaysia***. The representative of Malaysia announced the following contributions:

	$US
APCTT	10,000
SIAP	10,000
Pacific Trust Fund	1,000

In addition, Malaysia would contribute $US 40,000 to CCOP, and $US 42,000 and $M 400,000 to APDC.

721. ***Maldives***. The representative of Maldives announced that his Government would contribute $US 1,000 to SIAP.

722. ***Mongolia***. The representative of Mongolia indicated that his Government would contribute $US 2,000 in national currency to the ESCAP programme of work.

723. ***Myanmar***. The representative of Myanmar announced that its intended contribution to the ESCAP programme of work for 1991 would be at the same level as for 1990, $US 2,000.

724. ***Nepal***. The representative of Nepal announced the following contributions:

	$US
(a) ESCAP programme of work	2,492
(b) APCTT	500
(c) CGPRT Centre	500
(d) SIAP	500

In addition, Nepal would contribute $US 1,500 to APDC.

725. ***The Netherlands***. The representative of the Netherlands announced that, depending on the approval of specific projects and their disbursements in 1991, the level of the 1990 contributions, including associate expert services, of the Netherlands of f. 3.5 million could be used as an indicative planning figure for 1991, which, together with accumulated savings from previous years, would be equivalent to approximately $US 1.75 million. Projects under consideration were in the field of environmental protection, urban settlements, women in development and development supporting research and would focus on poverty alleviation and human resources development. Furthermore, the representative of the Netherlands underlined the importance of timely implementation of projects and stressed that, where appropriate, alternative financing, including from commercial sources, should be sought. He indicated that approval of some new projects could be conveyed to the secretariat by the end of May 1991.

726. ***Pakistan***. The representative of Pakistan announced the following contributions, subject to parliamentary approval:

	$US
APCTT	5,000
SIAP	8,000
RNAM (phase IV, 1987-1991)	14,000

In addition, Pakistan would contribute $US 30,000 to APDC.

727. ***Papua New Guinea***. The representative of Papua New Guinea announced the following contributions, which had already been remitted to the secretariat:

	$US
(a) SIAP	9,502
(b) EPOC	9,447
(c) Training course on development project appraisal and implementation in the South Pacific subregion	10,000
(d) Pacific Trust Fund	9,160

728. ***The Philippines***. The representative of the Philippines indicated that its intended contribution for

Those were: the inclusion of women's concerns in all aspects of development planning; the enhancement of legal literacy among both women and men and the issue of gender equality; the regional sharing of views and exchange of information on issues related to women in development; the prevention of prostitution and trafficking in women; the eradication of violence against women; the resolution of problems of working mothers, in particular to reduce the double burden of housework and child care in addition to their participation in the labour force; support for female-headed households and migrant women; and women's role in combating environmental degradation. It noted, in particular, that 1994 would be the International Year of the Family, and called on the secretariat to ensure that issues concerning women's status and role in the family be fully examined within the context of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

589. The Commission was informed that in addition to the activities concerning women in development being implemented directly under subprogramme 16 on women in development, the secretariat was increasingly integrating women's concerns into all sectoral subprogrammes. Activities being carried out on women in development issues under other subprogrammes were cross-listed under subprogramme 16 in brackets and were being coordinated by that subprogramme.

590. Referring to the report of the Committee on Population and Social Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/778), the Commission expressed concern over the fact that, although some countries in the region had instituted legal measures to eliminate various forms of discrimination against women, the necessary legislation aimed at protecting women against discrimination had not yet been promulgated in many countries. Furthermore, effective enforcement was missing in many countries, and numerous discriminatory legislative provisions continued to exist in many civil, penal and commercial codes and in various administrative regulations. The Commission drew particular attention to the gap between the *de jure* and *de facto* status of women owing to the entrenched opposition of the male-dominated society, weaknesses in the enforcement of the law, and continued adherence to customary discriminatory practices. The Commission recognized that the status quo had been perpetuated by the fact that the majority of women in the region were neither aware of their legal rights nor had access to their legal entitlements.

591. The Commission urged its members and associate members to carry out activities with a view to promoting legal awareness among women. That work could be coordinated at the national level by the national focal points for the advancement of women, many of which had been formed with the support of ESCAP. The Commission expressed the view that, in addition, efforts should be made to increase the awareness of men about women's rights; it proposed that the support of men should be mobilized towards the realization of *de facto* equality between men and women in all spheres of life. The legal literacy campaigns to be conducted throughout the region could, with those points in mind, include consideration of laws related to marriage and divorce, ownership of property, equal pay for equal value, the custody of children, inheritance rights, sexual harassment and violence against women. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue its current activities and strengthen them to assist countries in the region in improving women's overall status, including assistance to government agencies and non-governmental organizations in carrying out legal literacy campaigns with the above points in view.

592. The Commission stressed the importance of integrating women's concerns into development planning. It noted that in several countries of the Asian and Pacific region, steps had recently been taken to ensure the participation of women in national development, and thus the consideration of their concerns in planning, through various legislative and institutional arrangements. Several delegations reported that special development plans for women had been prepared recently in their countries as an integral part of their respective national development plans. Measures had also been taken to ensure women's equal participation in the labour force and to improve their access to employment, education and health services.

593. The Commission noted the secretariat's ongoing efforts to devise guidelines for use by Governments in the region in integrating women's concerns into development planning. In that connection, it endorsed the recommendations of the Meeting to Evaluate Guidelines on Integrating Women's Concerns in Development Planning, held at Bangkok from 28 to 30 November 1990.

594. The Commission recognized that the majority of "working" women were "employed" in the informal sector of the economy. However, development plans were generally formulated in the context of the formal economy only. Several delegations referred to the factors contributing to increasing relegation of working women to the informal sector. Those factors included the adoption of structural adjustment policies, demographic pressure and diminishing opportunities in certain formal sector industries. The Commission called on the secretariat to undertake case studies and provide policy guidance on enhancement of the role of women and improvement of their conditions of work in the informal sector.

595. The Commission noted with concern that national structural adjustment policies designed to redress economic ills had had a particularly negative impact on the economic status and role of women. Those policies had increased poverty among women, leading to deprivation and declining support of their reproductive and caring roles, as well as diminished access to the resources necessary for survival at a time when their needs were increasingly acute. Their access to education and training as well as productive resources had similarly been limited. The Commission urged its members and associate members to adopt appropriate policies and measures to minimize the negative impact of macro-economic adjustment policies on women, and called on the secretariat to continue to monitor the situation.

596. The Commission recognized the important role of non-governmental organizations in promoting women's full participation in development. Women's non-governmental organizations were considered to be playing a useful role, in cooperation with government

agencies, in providing services for women. They were also essential in sustaining the momentum of implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women for the period up to the year 2000. The secretariat was therefore urged to continue its activities to strengthen the role of women's organizations in the region.

597. The Commission recognized the important role that national focal points for the advancement of women played in improving the status of women in the region. It called upon the secretariat to strengthen those national focal points through advisory services and training workshops, such as those that had been conducted by the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP). It proposed that the secretariat should undertake a review of the status, structure, functions and programmes of national focal points and their role in assisting Governments to improve their policy, planning and programming coordination functions for the advancement of women.

598. The Commission noted the secretariat's work in developing a regional database on women's issues and called upon the secretariat to continue to develop that database and disseminate the resulting information to the region through the continued publication of directories and the *WINAP Newsletter*.

599. The Commission requested that the *Directory of National Focal Points for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific* be reissued in expanded form to provide more comprehensive information on the focal points than was available in the current publication. Several delegations expressed concern over the lack of timely and reliable statistics and indicators on women, and called upon the secretariat to undertake activities, through WINAP, to assist countries in that regard.

600. The Commission welcomed the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host a regional ministerial-level conference on women in development at Jakarta early in 1993 in preparation for the world conference on women scheduled to be convened in 1995. It requested the secretariat to take appropriate action, in consultation with the Government of Indonesia and with other countries and areas of the ESCAP region, as well as the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to ensure that the regional conference was a success.

601. The Government of China referred to the offer it had made in the United Nations General Assembly to host the world conference on women. The Commission welcomed that offer and voiced its strong support, particularly in view of General Assembly resolution 45/129 of 14 December 1990, in which it was stated that in choosing the venue of the 1995 conference preference should be given to regions that had not yet hosted a world conference on women. Since the previous world conferences on women had been held in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Africa, it was considered appropriate to hold the next one in Asia and the Pacific, which contained the greatest number of the world's women and of the world's poor women. The Commission called upon the secretariat to provide all possible assistance to China in its preparations to host the conference.

602. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer made by several Governments and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with the secretariat in preparing studies on the progress made and obstacles encountered in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in the Asian and Pacific region, as called for in Commission resolution 46/6 of 13 June 1990 on the integration of women in all aspects of development.

603. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should convene, at an early date, an inter-agency meeting to consider strengthened inter-agency collaboration in implementing its resolution 46/6. It reiterated the stipulation contained in that resolution that "Women in development" should be adopted as the theme topic at a session of the Commission in the near future. It was suggested that an appropriate year would be 1994, immediately following the 1993 regional ministerial-level conference on women in development and immediately in advance of the world conference on women to be convened by the United Nations in 1995.

604. The Commission noted with concern the persistence of the limited representation of women on delegations at the annual Commission sessions. That reflected the fact that in the Asian and Pacific region very few women had yet been able to reach the decision-making level in national Governments. It called on the countries and areas of the region to take urgent action to redress that situation.

605. The Commission was informed that, in addition to the two regular budget Professional posts provided for the subprogramme on women in development, the Government of Norway was currently funding an extrabudgetary post of an information expert, and the Government of Finland had decided to fund an extrabudgetary post of a senior expert on women in development. The Commission voiced its thanks for that generous support.

Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

606. The Commission approved the programme of work for the new subprogramme 12 on special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries contained in document E/ESCAP/789.

607. With regard to the proposal for additional staff resources to carry out the new activities, the Commission generally supported the need for providing adequate resources, but some representatives held the view that that should be accomplished through redeployment of staff resources within the secretariat.

608. While appreciating that the technical assistance activities undertaken by ESCAP for least developed and Pacific island countries were largely confined to studies, the Commission recommended that the secretariat's work programme should be reoriented towards activities which would have a more visible impact on the overall economic situation in those countries.

609. The Commission requested the secretariat to undertake the collection, analysis and dissemination of

information on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and to identify and adopt measures for its full implementation for the rest of the decade.

610. The Commission noted that there were considerable differences in the level of social and economic development within the Pacific island subregion. In that connection, many delegations urged that more Pacific island nationals be recruited to serve within the secretariat, particularly in the special programmes, so that such diversity could be better reflected and incorporated in the secretariat's substantive and technical assistance activities for the benefit of Pacific island countries.

Statistics, including the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Statistics

611. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/790, entitled "Changing role of statistical offices in national development in the 1990s", and E/ESCAP/814, on the draft programme of work and priorities in statistics for 1992-1993. It commended the secretariat on the quality of the documentation, which raised relevant and timely issues that were likely to confront the national statistical offices of member countries in the coming decade.

612. The Commission noted that the availability of timely and reliable statistics was vital to planning and decision-making. As countries of the region progressed over the years, their changing social and economic policies generated fresh demands for information. While national statistical offices continued to undertake their traditional role and functions, they had to be prepared to assume new responsibilities in supplying additional statistical information to various users, such as government offices, research institutions and commercial enterprises. The Commission noted that those increases in the demand for statistics and the more complex requirements of data users were placing a greater burden on national statistical organizations, necessitating their strengthening and, in some cases, reorganization. In that connection, however, it was noted that most of the developing countries were inadequately equipped with modern technologies and lacked adequate resources and skilled manpower to enable them to respond effectively to increasingly sophisticated user demands.

613. The Commission also noted that resource allocations for many national statistical offices had not grown concomitantly with the increased scope of and uses for statistics. Despite that difficult financial environment, the Commission observed that in order to cope with the changing circumstances some countries had already initiated a review of their national statistical budgets, as well as the formulation of statistical development plans and strategies, and the introduction of new statistical legislation. In a number of countries, the statistical offices had been upgraded so as to meet the growing demands for additional statistical data more effectively. To stress the importance of statistics and to promote public cooperation in statistical censuses and surveys, Japan had designated a Statistics Day, featuring various statistics-related events. It was reported that as a consequence of the reorganization of statistical services in some countries, there had been marked improvements in the timeliness and quality of data.

614. The increasing need for making data available at the subnational level, *inter alia* to plan, monitor and evaluate development projects, was recognized by the Commission. Decentralization of administrative systems and devolution of functions called for the measurement of socio-economic indicators at the subnational level, through strengthened survey programmes. Some countries mentioned their efforts to collect, process, analyse and disseminate data at the subnational level, and reported the installation of computers at the provincial and district levels for that purpose. New, more cost-effective methodologies were also being employed to generate and analyse small-area statistics. However, the preservation of confidentiality posed a problem in releasing such data, as the presentation of information for small areas could reveal the identity of the suppliers, particularly in establishment surveys. Increased data collection at the local level also called for improved coordination of national statistical systems and greater standardization.

615. The Commission noted the growing concern about the social and human development aspects of the development process in the countries of the ESCAP region. That had created increasing demand for better statistical measures on poverty, rural economic development, income distribution, education, nutrition, housing and so on, as well as for statistics on special population groups such as women, children and disabled persons. The Commission noted that many of those areas corresponded to the priority concerns of UNDP, and looked forward to possible collaboration between UNDP and ESCAP in that regard. It also noted that the improvement of statistics on women and other gender concerns were one of the priority programme impact points of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in the region. In that connection, it was pointed out that the collection, dissemination and utilization of improved statistics on women would heighten their visibility in the development planning process; better indicators were required to monitor the situation of women and assess the effectiveness of strategies and programmes designed to address priority gender concerns. The Commission was pleased to note that UNIFEM and the ESCAP Statistics Division were holding consultations on a project to meet those concerns.

616. The Commission noted with interest that there was increasing demand for statistics relating to the environment in member countries. Some countries had taken steps to start collecting data on the environment and natural resources, for example by identifying key environmental variables, developing multi-purpose databases, and standardizing statistical concept and measurement methods. The Commission noted, however, that most developing countries of the ESCAP region had so far given little attention to environment statistics, and experience in the area was lacking. As environmental deterioration did not respect political boundaries, it was suggested that a regional approach coordinated by ESCAP was required to develop data collection methodologies. In that regard, the Commission noted with satisfaction that a SIAP (Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific)/ESCAP seminar, recently organized in Tokyo

to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of SIAP, had featured environment statistics prominently.

617. The revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) was welcomed by the Commission, and the regional advisory services in national accounts provided by the secretariat were appreciated. It was suggested that ESCAP should prepare a schedule of technical cooperation activities so that all developing countries of the region could adopt and use the revised SNA simultaneously. The Commission noted that in China coordination of SNA and MPS (System of Material Products and Balances) was being pursued.

618. Support was expressed for participation in the International Comparison Programme (ICP), which was felt to be very useful in developing internationally comparable data on per capita income and gross national product. The Commission noted with satisfaction the very successful outcome of the Asia-Pacific Seminar on the Use of Purchasing Power Parities, held at Niigata, Japan in November 1990, and welcomed the intention of the Government of Japan to provide assistance for ICP through advisory services on a non-reimbursable loan basis, subject to confirmation by the authorities concerned.

619. The Commission noted the rapidly increasing use of computing technology, particularly microcomputers, in the field of statistics. That facilitated not only the production of timely and reliable data but also the provision of better service to users involved in forecasting and planning. It also noted that users in some countries had direct access to computerized databases for further analysis through their own computer terminals. In addition to the central statistical offices, some subregional and district-level offices of national statistical services had been equipped with microcomputers for statistical data processing. Many national statistical offices were, however, facing staff retention problems in the field of electronic data processing. It was felt that the development of computer skills and enhancement of infrastructure in support of computerization required assistance from organizations such as SIAP and ESCAP.

620. The Commission observed that the availability of microcomputers and packaged statistical software also contributed to the ability of national statistical offices to analyse the data they produced. Some statistical offices were already engaged in analysis and interpretation of data in accordance with the needs of researchers, planners and other users. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Government of China and the secretariat intended to cooperate in organizing a seminar in the field of statistical analysis and use of statistical software that would contribute to strengthening the analytical capabilities of developing countries of the region.

621. The Commission commended the activities of the secretariat, which were making a very useful contribution to the development of statistics in the countries of the region. Technical assistance had included the provision of advisory services, the organization of various technical meetings of topical interest and training programmes such as the NHSCP (National Household Survey Capability Programme)-related courses in New Delhi, and the preparation of documentation on methodology and techniques of special relevance to the region. Along with the collection and dissemination of regional statistics, such activities had assisted significantly in strengthening the statistical capabilities of member countries. It was suggested that the existing advisory services could be strengthened in the areas of industrial statistics, energy and environment statistics, and computer data processing.

622. The Commission endorsed the draft programme of work and priorities for the statistics subprogramme for the biennium 1992-1993, as contained in the annex to document E/ESCAP/814. It also supported the conclusions of the Working Group of Statistical Experts at its seventh session in December 1990, at which the programme of work for 1992-1993 and the status of the secretariat's staff resources had been discussed, *inter alia*. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the current arrangements for the delivery of advisory services in statistics. A number of delegations felt that for the Statistics Division to undertake efficiently and effectively the growing activities in statistics, such as support for the development of environmental data and the rapid advancement in computer and telecommunication technologies, the number of regular budget posts in the Division should be increased. Concern was expressed at the loss of the D-1 post and the overall low grading of posts in the Statistics Division, which needed to be rectified in order not to hamper the secretariat's efforts to assist national statistical offices in fulfilling their changing role, as described in document E/ESCAP/790.

623. The Commission noted with appreciation that since its forty-sixth session the secretariat had received bilateral support for its activities in the fields of statistics and government computerization from Denmark, Fiji, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It expressed warm gratitude to those Governments for the provision of human or financial resources and host facilities for meetings, and to the Royal Thai Government for hosting several study tours. It also welcomed the intention of the Government of Australia to provide an adviser in statistics based at EPOC (ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre), and the offer of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to supply the secretariat with technical publications and related materials in the field of statistics. The Commission heard that among the multilateral agencies, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and ILO had extended very considerable support. The Commission expressed appreciation to all those donors, and requested them and others to continue their support in the future.

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

624. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/791. It noted that SIAP had expanded its training programmes in the field of statistics, as well as in automatic data processing, and that a total of 287 participants from 39 members and associate members had attended various SIAP training courses during the period under review.

625. The Commission recognized that the capability of national statistical offices had to be upgraded continuously through training. Member countries requested the Institute to expand its courses in

statistics and data processing, taking into account the needs of the region determined by the changing economic and social situation in the countries. The Commission emphasized the need for more training in analysing and interpreting statistics and in report writing, targeted towards the dissemination of statistics to users so that the best use could be made of the data collected in censuses and surveys. The Commission also recognized the need for training courses to be developed on such subjects as poverty alleviation, monitoring rural development, nutrition surveillance, environment statistics, women in development, consumption and expenditure surveys, industrial statistics, socio-economic indicators and forecasting techniques. The Commission also recognized the importance of training trainers, and requested SIAP to give increasing emphasis to that aspect of its work through training courses, as well as through the preparation of training materials which could be used by national statistical offices. The Commission noted the new programming thrusts suggested by UNDP for its next cycle beginning in 1992 and requested SIAP to provide training which would support those initiatives, giving particular emphasis to the problems of economic reform and to monitoring human development.

626. The Commission noted that the Institute had expanded its training programmes in data processing and requested it to give special emphasis to the training of statisticians in the use of statistical software packages so that they could provide a more comprehensive analysis of available data.

627. The Commission also noted the increasing role of country courses conducted with UNDP support in the Institute's work programme and urged SIAP to continue that cost-effective method of training, which also made use of short-term experts provided by member countries.

628. In addition, the Commission noted the necessity of skills development of middle- and high-level personnel of statistical offices and urged the Institute to continue its UNDP-funded programmes of workshops and seminars geared to that objective. It was noted that particular emphasis should be given to the development of management capacity in statistical offices.

629. The Commission requested the Institute to give priority to the training of persons from the least developed and island developing countries, and urged it to train statisticians from countries affected by war and civil disturbance so that they could play a useful role in devising rehabilitation programmes.

630. Member countries expressed their satisfaction with the activities of SIAP since its establishment and urged strongly that the SIAP project be continued after the fifth phase, which would end in March 1992. The Commission requested the concerned parties to draft a project proposal for the sixth phase incorporating the thrust suggested by the Commission at various sessions. It requested that the Institute continue in the sixth phase the six-month general course in practical statistics and the newly introduced course on analysis and interpretation of statistics, as well as maintain its thrust in training statisticians in data processing. The Commission stressed the importance of expanding the programme of country courses and advanced workshops and seminars in the next phase of SIAP and urged the Institute to use TCDC modalities to the extent possible in conducting those courses.

631. The Commission noted that the Governing Council of UNDP had decided to reduce the budget for regional programmes and institutions in the next programming cycle of UNDP beginning in 1992. However, the Commission stressed that statistics was a priority subject which needed to be developed in the region, since it was vital to have reliable and timely data for the formulation and monitoring of all social and economic development programmes. In that context, the Commission urged strongly that UNDP consider increasing its programme support to SIAP during its projected sixth phase.

632. The Commission gratefully acknowledged the continuing support, in cash and in kind, being provided to SIAP by members and associate members. In the context of the expanded programme of the Institute, the Commission urged its members to increase their contributions to SIAP. It was pleased to note that several countries had responded positively to its previous appeals.

633. The Commission expressed gratitude to the host country, Japan, for its continuing financial and in-kind contributions to the Institute, as well as the programme support it provided through the award of fellowships for training in statistics and data processing and for the new course in analysis and interpretation. It also expressed gratitude to UNDP for its generous provision of $US 600,000 for the fifth phase of the project, which had made it possible for the Institute to have a wide outreach to the region through the programme of country courses and advanced workshops; to the United Kingdom, for the continuing provision of short-term lecturers on a non-reimbursable basis; and to various international organizations for their cooperation and assistance in various programmes of the Institute. The Commission also expressed appreciation of the support of Australia which, in addition to a cash contribution, provided lecturers on a short-term basis from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Transport and communications: mid-term review of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 and other issues and programmes

634. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/793, "Report of the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications on its thirteenth session" and E/ESCAP/794, "Transport and communications: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993".

635. A number of delegations expressed concern at the introduction of oversized (non-ISO (International Organization for Standardization) standard) containers in the region since the current infrastructure was designed to handle only ISO standard containers and considerable expenditure might be needed to accommodate the larger sizes. The Commission noted that a study on that issue was being undertaken and guidelines developed to assist countries in determining the best cost approach to accommodate the introduction of oversized or non-ISO containers.

636. A number of delegations expressed support for the activities undertaken by the secretariat in the land transport sector, and welcomed the efforts made by the secretariat to reinvigorate the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway projects and to fill the missing links in both. The secretariat noted the request of the Government of Viet Nam for a mission to be sent to discuss reactivation of its involvement in the Asian Highway project. The Commission noted the reiterated intention of the Government of Mongolia to join the Asian Highway Network, and the request by the Republic of Korea for a feasibility study on connecting the rail networks of China, Mongolia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Korean peninsula.

637. A number of delegations expressed support for the activities undertaken by the secretariat in the maritime sector and the Commission noted with gratitude that the Government of Japan would continue its assistance in that field to the extent possible. It also noted with satisfaction the use made by many developing member Governments of the software packages of the regional maritime strategy study and commented that those were useful financial and technical tools. It noted with gratitude the offers of continuous support for the study by the Government of the Netherlands, and the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to assist with the further development and refinement of the models and to share its experience.

638. The Commission noted with appreciation the offers of continued assistance whenever possible made by the Governments of China, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, the USSR and the United States in the field of transport and communications.

639. The secretariat took note of the requests for assistance and workshops made by the Governments of Afghanistan, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, and the suggestions regarding priority areas to be included in the work programme.

640. The Commission stressed that the development of transport and communications was essential to the economic and social development of the region and that high priority should be accorded to the activities undertaken by the secretariat in that particular field. It emphasized the importance it attached to the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994.

641. The Commission considered and endorsed the recommendations pertaining to the Decade made by the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications at its thirteenth session, held at Bangkok in December 1990, which included the following:

(a) Because of the importance of transport and communications, the programmes for the Decade should be continued in spite of the problems experienced during the first quinquennium;

(b) The time-frame of the second quinquennium, hereafter referred to as phase II, should be adjusted to cover the period 1992-1996 to allow time to correct the shortcomings of phase I, to formulate the new regional action programme, and to coincide with the time-frame of the medium-term plan of the United Nations for the period 1992-1997, which would take the Decade into full consideration;

(c) Phase II should concentrate on regional activities of the greatest impact, developed within the framework of a new regional action programme which would focus on issues that should be regional in character or tailored to the common needs of groups of countries within the region;

(d) The secretariat should play a lead role in coordinating the formulation of the regional action programme;

(e) Existing subregional groupings and intergovernmental organizations, as well as national institutions concerned with transport and communications, should be fully associated with the secretariat in the formulation and implementation of the regional action programme;

(f) A meeting of ministers responsible for transport and communications should be convened early in 1992 to adopt and launch a regional action programme for phase II;

(g) The involvement of commercial expertise in the implementation of the Decade should be encouraged, for example in relation to the management and operation of transport and communications modes;

(h) The secretariat should establish a compendium of projects undertaken in the transport and communications sectors within the region and provide data and information relating to ongoing and completed projects on a regular and ad hoc basis;

(i) Post-evaluation of selected workshops and seminar-cum-study tours should be undertaken in order to provide guidelines for a model training scheme and the consistent production of training materials of high quality.

642. The Commission called for the active participation of and close cooperation among member and associate member Governments, and relevant international and intergovernmental organizations, to facilitate the formulation and implementation of a regional action programme for phase II comprising priority programmes to assist the developing member and associate member Governments in the region.

643. It took note of the following priority areas proposed for inclusion in the regional action programme: (i) assistance programme for commercialization initiatives; (ii) technology transfer; (iii) human resources development; and (iv) the development of interregional transport linkages.

644. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 47/10 on Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994.

645. The Commission took note of the request by some of the land-locked countries for technical assistance in transit facilities.

646. The representatives of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) reaffirmed continued support in their respective fields to the member and associate member Governments of the region and their cooperation with the ESCAP secretariat for phase II.

647. The Commission approved the programme of work for 1992-1993 as contained in E/ESCAP/794. It also noted the request of the secretariat in that programme for three additional regular budget posts to be allocated to subprogramme 14, Transport and communications. The Commission was advised that one post had already been redeployed from within the secretariat. Two delegations suggested that the other two additional posts should be made available to the subprogramme also through redeployment of existing posts within the secretariat, although if any additional resources were made available, they would support them for that programme.

648. In endorsing the programme changes for 1991 recommended by the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications at its thirteenth session, held in December 1990, the Commission decided to retain the output "Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting of highway experts" and to add "Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting of highway and railway officials on Asian land transport infrastructure development". It also decided on the following additional output under technical assistance: "Formulation of a regional action programme for phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1992-1996)".

649. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/801, "The viability and cost-effectiveness of establishing a regional inland water transport centre in Bangladesh, and of the alternatives of strengthening the secretariat or using a network approach", together with the "Report of the study on the viability and cost-effectiveness of establishing a regional inland water transport centre in Bangladesh, and of the alternatives of strengthening the secretariat or using a network approach", considered by the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications at its thirteenth session. It noted the Committee's agreement that the secretariat document and report had responded to the Commission's request for a study on that issue, but that the report had not answered the question of the availability of funds to ensure the viability of the centre.

650. It further noted the decision of the Committee that as not all criteria had been fulfilled, it could not make a recommendation and had therefore requested the secretariat to approach appropriate donor countries and lending agencies to establish if the necessary funds could be assured to ensure the viability of the centre so as to facilitate consideration by the Commission at the current session of the proposal on the establishment of a regional inland water transport centre in Bangladesh, and of the alternatives of strengthening the secretariat or using a network approach.

651. The Commission was informed that the secretariat had written to nine donor organizations and countries seeking support and had received formal or informal replies from all of them. The replies indicated that for various reasons financial support for the establishment of a regional inland water centre in Bangladesh was not likely to be provided at the present time. However, when a centre was established, suitable programmes might attract support.

652. Many countries indicated strong support for the development of inland water transport in the region, and some countries stated that their Governments accorded the highest priority to inland water transport in their national plans. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer by a number of countries to continue support of the activities and programmes on inland water transport.

653. Some countries supported the establishment of an inland water transport centre in Bangladesh on the basis that the need was not in doubt and that the required funds could be obtained subsequently. They urged the Commission to take a decision in principle to establish the inland water transport centre.

654. Several other countries supported the strengthening of the ESCAP secretariat as that required less funding and could produce satisfactory results. However, the Commission was advised that strengthening the secretariat had resource implications. A few countries supported the network approach as it was more cost-effective as compared with other alternatives and had no resource implications for the secretariat, and some others opted for both strengthening the secretariat and adopting a network approach.

655. The Commission noted that there was no agreement on which alternative to implement, and the secretariat was given no direction on the subject at the present time. Two delegations suggested that the subject might be taken up for consideration later. However, it noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Bangladesh to provide host facilities for setting up the inland water transport centre at Dhaka.

656. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/792, "ESCAP/ITU/APT joint plan of action in telecommunications", reporting on the action taken by the secretariat in response to Commission resolution 270 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on the adoption of measures in the Asian and Pacific region to support follow-up of the report *The Missing Link* on telecommunication. The document also contained the conclusions and recommendations of the study on telecommunication development in the ESCAP region carried out by the secretariat.

657. The Commission took note of the six themes for action identified in the study and the draft programme of activities based on the recommendations of the study. It also noted with appreciation the cooperation of ITU and APT in the preparation of the draft programme. Noting that the responsibilities of both ITU and APT, particularly in the policy area, had strengthened and increased since the adoption of resolution 270 (XLIV), the Commission endorsed the position that those two organizations should take the maximum role in the proposed plan of action but that the secretariat should stand ready to support ITU and APT, and the development of telecommunications in the region at the highest level, as and when required.

658. The Commission noted with appreciation the work done by ITU and APT and the consultative mechanism that had been set up between those intergovernmental organizations and the secretariat to facilitate continuous cooperation. It also noted the cooperation of both ITU and APT in the formulation of the regional action programme, in respect of telecommunication development, for the second quinquennium of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1992-1996.

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

659. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/795, on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, which provided analytical information on TCDC activities promoted by the secretariat, the impediments to promotional and operational TCDC activities and possible approaches to alleviate the problems. In introducing the subject, the secretariat drew attention to the prospects for enhanced operational TCDC activities in the coming years despite the slow progress achieved in the past. The document also contained: (i) an update on the ad hoc intergovernmental meeting of ECDC-TCDC national focal points on review of activities and formulation of a programme and TCDC/ECDC programming among small and medium-sized manufacturers of electrical and electronic products; (ii) financial strategy for implementing operational TCDC activities; and (iii) ECDC/TCDC approaches to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries.

660. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue and intensify its catalytic efforts towards the promotion of technical and economic cooperation activities among the developing countries, in particular its emphasis on operational activities at both the bilateral and multilateral levels. It noted with appreciation the commitment of the developing countries to the promotion of collective self-reliance and the socio-economic development of their countries through implementation of mutually beneficial ECDC and TCDC activities in areas of specific interest to them. It also noted the view that those ECDC and TCDC activities should not be conducted in a closed and exclusive manner.

661. Some delegations stated that the number of operational TCDC activities implemented by the developing countries had in fact exceeded that indicated in the secretariat document, as operational TCDC activities implemented on a bilateral basis with financing provided by the participating countries themselves, or through third party financing by donors and specialized agencies of the United Nations, were not accounted for by ESCAP. With the clarification provided in document E/ESCAP/795 concerning the definition of promotional and operational TCDC activities, it was felt that the operational activities would continue to expand in the future. Developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, expressed the belief that effective follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of such activities should be ensured in order to maximize the benefits that could accrue to the participating countries. In that connection, the secretariat was urged to continue its useful catalytic role in regard to both promotional and operational TCDC activities.

662. The Commission re-emphasized its earlier understanding that the expansion and strengthening of ECDC and TCDC activities was the primary responsibility of the developing countries and that the United Nations development system, including ESCAP, and donor countries and agencies should continue to encourage such efforts through the provision of financial and other assistance. In that regard, the Commission expressed appreciation to the donor Governments, particularly those of China, the Netherlands, Norway and the Republic of Korea, of their continuing contributions to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund, which had enabled the secretariat to support a number of operational TCDC activities. It urged those countries, as well as others in a position to do so, to contribute further towards such efforts, either financially or technically. ESCAP, as the regional focal point for ECDC and TCDC activities, was urged to continue and increase its role in that regard, with particular emphasis on the needs and priorities of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. It was therefore suggested that the secretariat should compile and disseminate information on the needs and capacities of members and associate members with a view to assisting them to develop operational TCDC activities.

663. The Commission noted the successful outcome of the multisectoral TCDC programming exercise meeting hosted by the Government of Indonesia at Jakarta from 30 July to 3 August 1990 with the technical and financial assistance of the UNDP Special Unit on TCDC and with participation from 29 developing countries of Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Europe, and seven international organizations, including ESCAP. The Seminar on People's Participation and National Self-reliance: Issues and Policy Options for TCDC in the 1990s had also been organized in conjunction with the TCDC programming exercise meeting. The Commission welcomed the initiative of the Philippines in conducting, with the assistance of UNDP, a TCDC programming exercise in the food and agriculture sector during 1991. It noted with appreciation the interest expressed by some developing countries in participating in that programming exercise and expressed the hope that more countries would participate in that worthwhile endeavour aimed at fostering ECDC and TCDC in the food and agriculture sector. The delegation of Pakistan informed the Commission that in September 1991 Pakistan would be hosting a TCDC programming exercise, with the assistance of the UNDP Special Unit on TCDC, in an advanced field of civil air transport, to which more than 70 regional and non-regional developing countries had been invited. The Commission noted with appreciation that Pakistan intended to host the second phase of an intergovernmental TCDC programming exercise in the field of industry early in 1992. It also welcomed a proposal by Thailand to host a sectoral programming exercise with the assistance of ESCAP in the near future.

664. In the light of the positive benefits achieved by the countries participating in TCDC programming exercises, the Commission urged that more such exercises be carried out for the mutual benefit of the developing countries. It took note of the suggestions

made by the developing countries that the secretariat should promote and expand the utilization of TCDC modalities in the provision of training opportunities in new subject areas, such as macro-economic planning, the promotion of foreign investment and the facilitation of technology absorption leading to increased technology flow among the developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region to meet their national needs and priorities. The Commission also took note of the postponement from November 1990 to June 1991 of the ad hoc intergovernmental meeting of ECDC-TCDC national focal points on review of activities and formulation of a programme and TCDC/ECDC programming among small and medium-sized manufacturers of electrical and electronic products, and expressed the hope that both the public and the private sectors would participate actively in the meeting and contribute to its success.

665. Ample opportunities existed for member and associate member developing countries to develop promotional TCDC activities into operational activities or ECDC activities at the bilateral and multilateral levels. Unfortunately, financial constraints had hampered progress towards that end. Several countries had successfully utilized their national budgets and their UNDP country indicative planning figures (IPFs) for the implementation of operational TCDC activities, while others continued to rely on funds provided by third parties and the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund for such activities. The Commission noted that those developing countries which had utilized their national budgets and the UNDP country IPFs had developed more TCDC and ECDC activities, and it urged other countries to do likewise in order to benefit more from the experience of other developing countries through participation in workshops, field study visits, on-the-job training and the exchange of expertise.

666. The Commission noted the significant benefits which the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries would derive from their participation in ECDC and TCDC activities. However, owing to a lack of information on their own needs and capacities as well as the needs and capacities of other developing countries, bureaucratic impediments and lack of national infrastructure, the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries were unable to participate actively in ECDC and TCDC activities. The representatives of least developed and land-locked countries expressed appreciation of the assistance rendered by the secretariat in promoting their participation in some ECDC and TCDC activities, and requested the secretariat to undertake specific activities, such as the compilation of the needs of the least developed countries, and to provide them with information on the capacities of other developing countries in order to enable them to derive greater benefits in the future. The secretariat was also urged to concentrate on activities which were of priority interest to the least developed countries.

667. The Commission noted with appreciation the statements of the International Pepper Community, the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community and the Colombo Plan on their continuing efforts to promote operational TCDC activities among their members and in their respective fields of interest. It also noted with satisfaction the close cooperation they had established with ESCAP and other United Nations bodies in promoting ECDC-TCDC activities.

Special problems faced by the Pacific island countries: the Commission's activities in the Pacific

668. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/796.

669. It noted the development constraints faced by island economies, the removal of which was complicated by several difficulties encountered in various stages of project planning, particularly in the areas of appraisal, monitoring and implementation. The Commission appreciated the concerted efforts made by Pacific island Governments to improve their project planning capabilities, including the creation and strengthening of planning units at the sectoral ministerial level and greater decentralization of planning responsibilities. However, those efforts were severely constrained by, among other factors, the shortage of complementary human resources and technical skills.

670. In that connection, the Commission welcomed appropriately designed technical assistance, including the conduct of training courses on project planning, for the benefit of Pacific island countries. It stressed that external assistance should reflect closely the considerable diversity in economic development and factor endowments among Pacific island economies themselves. The Commission also emphasized the need to recruit more Pacific island nationals to work within the secretariat so as to reflect island subregional perspectives better in ESCAP work programmes. The need to maintain close collaboration and cooperation with the Forum Secretariat and the South Pacific Commission, among other Pacific regional agencies, was also reiterated.

671. The Commission took note of the joint statement put forward by Pacific island delegations during an informal consultation with the secretariat. It was indicated that the paper synthesized well the issues and needs of common concern, and represented a notable step forward in facilitating a more coordinated presentation and structured discussion. A request was made by one delegation that the secretariat undertake an in-depth study of the causes behind the poor performance of Pacific island economies; the study could select one economy each from Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia for the purpose.

672. The Commission expressed great appreciation of the wide range of activities implemented by the various divisions, units and offices of the secretariat for the benefit of the Pacific island countries. The increased level of technical assistance activities, including advisory services and short-term consultancies, and the expanded scope of inter-agency cooperation undertaken by and through the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC) in 1991, were particularly welcomed. In that regard, the Commission noted with gratification the support for EPOC through the provision of advisers by France and Japan, the funding of short-term consultancies by UNDP, and the contribution by New Zealand of $NZ 100,000 for project appraisal and evaluation purposes. In addition, support in cash and in kind for secretariat activities in the Pacific provided by other donors was greatly appreciated by the Commission.

673. All donor countries and agencies were urged to continue their assistance to Pacific island developing countries. UNDP was also requested to continue funding the useful project on short-term advisory services in the next UNDP programming cycle. More generally, several delegations stressed the importance of ECDC-TCDC. In that connection, the Commission took note of the various areas in which technical assistance was provided to Pacific island countries by member Governments under their national ECDC and TCDC modalities, and of the announced willingness of those Governments to maintain and increase such cooperative assistance to Pacific island countries.

674. The Commission appreciated the secretariat's continued support to the annual orientation programme, in which eight officials from Pacific island countries had participated in 1991. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue that annual activity, which had proved worth while and beneficial for the participating Pacific island countries.

675. The Commission welcomed the continued successful implementation of its resolution 269 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on the Commission's activities in the Pacific. The establishment of the Pacific Trust Fund had facilitated the participation of several delegations from the Pacific in annual sessions of the Commission. It expressed deep appreciation of the contributions to the Fund from a large number of countries, including several developing and Pacific island countries themselves. The Commission was hopeful that the Fund would continue to gain support so that the participation in future Commission sessions of the more disadvantaged among the Pacific island countries could be met from income earned by the Fund. In that context, the Commission noted with appreciation the announced contributions or pledged support for the Fund for the year 1991 from the Governments of Australia, China, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, France, Indonesia, Japan, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines.

In-depth study of the intergovernmental subsidiary structure of the Commission

676. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/797, E/ESCAP/798 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/799.

677. It expressed appreciation of the valuable contribution of the Group of Eminent Persons on Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission, whose report and recommendations had been found stimulating, innovative and thought-provoking and reflected a great deal of profound thinking on the future role of ESCAP. It thanked the Government of Japan and the Netherlands for having facilitated the convening of the Group and the conduct of the in-depth study on the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission through generous financial assistance. It also thanked the Executive Secretary for his very constructive proposals and the analytical presentation given in the documentation.

678. Recalling the extensive debate during the forty-sixth session on the structural weaknesses of the existing subsidiary structure, the Commission reiterated the imperative need for continuing appraisal and improvement of its organizational and operational structure to enable it to continue to fulfil its mandate efficiently and to serve its members and associate members more effectively. Against that background, the recommendation of the Group of Eminent Persons that a thematic approach to the work of the Commission be adopted, and its unqualified endorsement by the Executive Secretary, were refreshing and encouraging.

679. The Commission generally endorsed the recommendation of the Group of Eminent Persons that the work of the Commission be organized on the basis of a thematic approach, as proposed. That approach would be conducive to greater effectiveness in the work of the Commission, since it would provide greater flexibility in the effective handling of subjects chosen for action, leading to greater economy in the use of resources. It would bring together a number of small projects under the umbrella of an important theme, thus putting into practice the concept of a comprehensive approach to development and avoiding the dissipation of precious resources. It would be in consonance with the growing recognition of a strong interrelationship among socio-economic issues and activities. It would foster inter-agency coordination and help ESCAP demonstrate its comparative advantage and better utilize its multidisciplinary strength as well as exercise its mandated role of providing team leadership and coordination within the United Nations system at the regional level. Furthermore, the adoption of the thematic approach would greatly enhance the capability of ESCAP to respond better and more readily to the needs and aspirations of its members and associate members in meeting new challenges.

680. The Commission shared the concern of the Group of Eminent Persons that a sudden change in the method of work could be disruptive. It therefore welcomed a period of transition and considered prudent the proposed gradual and progressive move from a sectoral to a thematic basis. It cautioned that in the transition phase there could be overlapping areas among the thematic and technical committees, and suggested that efforts should be made to avoid duplication in the work of the committees. It was of the opinion that the period of transition should not be unduly prolonged and that the change should be effected within a reasonable time-frame. It was also of the opinion that the change should not affect the capability to provide sectoral technical assistance in response to specific requests for such assistance from members and associate members.

681. The Commission considered that the three themes that had been proposed - regional economic cooperation, the environment and sustainable development, and poverty alleviation and economic growth - were timely and topical and covered the urgent needs of the members and associate members in the region in the existing situation. However, it stressed that no theme should become self-perpetuating and that there should be a mechanism to review themes periodically and replace them in keeping with changing needs and priorities. There should be flexibility in the choice of new themes to accommodate the wishes and needs of the maximum number of developing members and associate members. Those issues should be addressed seriously

when detailed modalities of the new structure were considered. One delegation felt that the proposed themes were rather broad and should be more sharply defined.

682. The Commission welcomed the emphasis given to regional economic cooperation in the reorientation of work of the proposed subsidiary structure. It reiterated that regional economic cooperation was its most basic mandate: indeed, it was the very *raison d'être* of the Commission. It reaffirmed that regional economic cooperation was the primary concern and responsibility of the regional members and associate members. Growing interdependence and complementarities among countries of the region, the improved international political climate and the trend towards greater liberalization and outward orientation in economic policies had given a fresh impetus to the vital role of regional cooperation in fostering economic and social development, modernization and structural transformation of the countries of the region.

683. The Commission was of the view that regional economic cooperation could be a major force in bringing the region's less dynamic economies, particularly the least developed and island developing countries, into the mainstream of development. It would serve as a key objective of ESCAP to spread the growth impulse to the entire region and thus help attain a balance throughout the region.

684. The Commission noted the valuable contribution made by developed countries in enhancing cooperation in the region and was of the view that their active involvement and support would be essential for the effective implementation of mutually beneficial cooperative initiatives in Asia and the Pacific in the years ahead.

685. The Commission emphasized that the promotion of economic and social progress in the region should be the underlying objective in strengthening regional cooperation. It felt that cooperation should not be advocated for its own sake and should not affect adversely the establishment of an open multilateral trading system, which remained vital for strengthening the development efforts and maintaining the growth momentum of many Asian and Pacific economies.

686. The Commission recognized that it would be necessary for cooperation to be broad-based in order to take advantage of new opportunities as well as to respond to new challenges in a rapidly changing regional and global environment. It therefore recommended that not only governmental support but also resources, talent and expertise in the private sector, the non-governmental organizations and the academic community were necessary to promote cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.

687. The Commission considered that the present time was most opportune for giving fresh impetus to strengthen such cooperation. In that context, several delegations endorsed the proposal to establish a high-level standing committee for regional economic cooperation. Since ESCAP had a region-wide commitment, the standing committee could encourage and facilitate region-wide economic cooperation through increased intraregional trade, investment flows and technology transfer. It should focus its efforts on those areas in which ESCAP had proved to be effective. The view was expressed that it should seek to avoid duplication. ESCAP should work closely with such subregional organizations as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), the South Pacific Commission and the Forum Secretariat, and should encourage greater communication among them.

688. However, several delegations expressed certain reservations as to the need for establishing a standing committee as proposed. Several other delegations also requested clarification concerning its status, composition, frequency of meetings and relationship to the Commission itself. It was suggested that any institutional arrangement for regional cooperation should be "demand driven". Certain delegations requested that the new subsidiary committee be open to all members of the Commission, without exception, as all the subsidiary committees had been since the establishment of the Commission. The view was expressed that one way of overcoming the obstacle with regard to the composition of the standing committee would be to include both regional and non-regional members but accord a difference in status to the two groups.

689. While there was agreement in principle to set up three thematic committees, including one on regional economic cooperation, in the light of the discussions it was decided that a meeting of senior officials should work out the details regarding the status of the thematic committees, their composition, frequency of meetings, relationship with the other committees and bodies in the proposed subsidiary structure as well as with other relevant institutions and organizations, and the modalities of work.

690. The Commission was of the opinion that the proposed intergovernmental structure was a reorganization of the existing structure and was not an addition to it. It was recognized that the adoption of the new structure could pose some anomalies because of the sectoral organization of the Governments and of the ESCAP secretariat. But the recent trend in some Governments to create ministries dealing with intersectoral themes or to set up interministerial/interdepartmental groups to address complex and multisectoral issues, and the envisaged gradual and progressive shift from a sectoral to a thematic organization of the subsidiary structure, should help overcome those anomalies. Any shortcomings in the proposed intergovernmental structure, as well as the concern expressed by some delegations at the inadequate attention given to certain sectors and areas, such as agriculture and development planning, should be considered when the terms of reference and modalities of work of the thematic and technical committees and the special bodies were formulated.

691. The Commission welcomed the establishment of two special bodies, one on the least developed and land-locked developing countries and the other on the Pacific island developing countries. It expressed the view that special attention should be paid to enabling the special bodies to deal with the issues and subjects effectively.

692. The Commission felt that the secretariat should concentrate, *inter alia*, on comprehensive policy-

Resources Development in the ESCAP Region. The Transport I programme, relating to the land transport and communications components of the Decade, and the Transport II programme, relating to the shipping, ports and inland waterways components, had together received 27.43 per cent of the total extrabudgetary cash contributions. Three other sectors that had received sizeable donor cash support during 1990 were International trade and tourism, Environment, and Population.

704. The Executive Secretary reported the launching of self-evaluation of the remaining 25 subprogrammes in 1990. He expressed deep appreciation to the Governments of France and the Netherlands of their generous support to the secretariat's evaluation activities, and requested donor Governments to continue their support to those activities.

705. The Executive Secretary, appealing for increased contributions, reminded the Commission of the severe financial constraints besetting the three regional institutions: the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific; the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology; and the Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific. He observed that, when making pledges to those institutions, delegations might bear in mind the suggestion made by the secretariat the previous year that the least developed countries and other developing countries consider $US 1,000 and $US 15,000 respectively as indicative appropriate levels of contribution.

706. The Executive Secretary welcomed the reorientation of the development assistance programmes of a number of donor Governments and agencies from a sectoral approach to a multi-year thematic programme or multidisciplinary approach, particularly in view of the growing complexity of development problems. With in-house multidisciplinary capabilities, ESCAP would be well placed to assist its developing members and associate members in the changed context.

707. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to document ESCAP(XLVII)/INF.4, which contained the response of ESCAP to the UNDP Advisory Note on the Fifth Intercountry Programming Cycle, 1992-1996, as well as the Advisory Note itself.

708. The Executive Secretary expressed confidence that the Governments would continue to render unflagging support to ESCAP activities. He therefore hoped that the results of the pledging exercise would once again reaffirm the commitment of the member States to the ideals and purposes for which the Commission had been established.

709. The Commission took note of the following intended contributions announced for 1991.

710. ***Australia***. The representative of Australia stressed the usefulness of the joint ESCAP-Australia project review on Australian-funded projects during 1990 and expressed the desire to continue such joint review exercises in the future. He indicated that 14 projects would be supported by the Australian Government in 1991. Those projects were in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, social development, transport, international trade, development planning, environment, and the Pacific Trust Fund. Of those, four projects would only be completed late in 1992 and after, and thus involved multi-year commitments on the part of the Australian Government. Financial commitments for those projects in 1991 were estimated at $US 371,500. In addition, the Australian Government would provide a statistical adviser to EPOC at an estimated cost of $US 80,000. The total financial support of the Australian Government in 1991 would therefore amount to $US 451,500. That would be met by utilizing the accumulated savings available from unallocated funds, pooled interest and savings on completed projects, of $US 225,000 and $US 230,000 of the new grant. Given the level of the current ongoing commitments for future years, the representative of Australia indicated that it would be unlikely that the Australian Government would fund any new project initiatives before 1993. He also indicated that the priority areas of the Government's development assistance programme were transport, environment, poverty alleviation and health.

711. ***Bangladesh***. The representative of Bangladesh announced the following contributions:

	$US
APCTT	5,000
CGPRT Centre	1,000
SIAP	5,000
RNAM	6,000

In addition, Bangladesh would contribute $US 15,000 to APDC.

712. ***Brunei Darussalam***. The representative of Brunei Darussalam announced that his Government would contribute $US 5,000 to SIAP. In addition, it would contribute $US 10,000 to APDC.

713. ***China***. The representative of China announced the following contributions:

(a) ESCAP programme of work, for China-ESCAP Co-operation Projects: YRMB 550,000
(b) ESCAP programme of work, for China-ESCAP Co-operation Projects (including $US 40,000 for the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund and $US 10,000 for the Pacific Trust Fund): $US 120,000
(c) Regional institutions:

	$US
APCTT	15,000
SIAP	21,000
RNAM	12,000

In addition, China would contribute $US 40,000 to CCOP, $US 50,000 and YRMB 30,000 to APDC, and YRMB 150,000 to the Typhoon Committee.

714. ***France***. The representative of France announced that the intended contribution of his Government in cash and in kind in 1991 would amount to F 11.5 million, equivalent to about $US 2.22 million for ESCAP activities in the areas of agriculture,

1991 would be communicated to the secretariat in the near future.

729. ***Republic of Korea.*** The representative of the Republic of Korea announced that, as a result of the full confidence of his Government in the capacity of ESCAP to undertake regional cooperation projects through the Korea-ESCAP Co-operation Fund, his Government would contribute $US 400,000 to the Fund in 1991. That represented an increase of $US 100,000, or 33.3 per cent, over the 1990 level. His Government would also contribute $US 15,000 to the CGPRT Centre, $US 20,000 to SIAP and $US 15,000 to RNAM. In addition, the Republic of Korea would provide six experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis, at an estimated cost of $US 420,000, to augment the staff strength of the secretariat in 1991; three of them were current incumbents.

730. ***Sri Lanka.*** The representative of Sri Lanka announced the following contributions for 1991:

	$US
APCTT	5,000
SIAP	5,000
RNAM	SL Rs 200,000

In addition, Sri Lanka would contribute SL Rs 400,000 to the CGPRT Centre from 1992 onwards, and $US 27,500 to APDC.

731. ***Thailand.*** The representative of Thailand announced the following contributions:

	$US
APCTT	15,000
CGPRT Centre	15,000
SIAP	10,000
RNAM	B 250,000

In addition, Thailand would contribute $US 40,000 to APDC, $US 30,000 to CCOP and $US 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee. It would also provide an in-kind contribution valued at $US 3,800 for the POPIN Directory in Indonesia.

732. ***Tonga.*** The representative of Tonga expressed his Government's appreciation of the secretariat's offer to fund the attendance of the leader of the delegation of Tonga at the session from the Pacific Trust Fund. He indicated that, as a gesture of his Government's cooperation in building up the Fund, his Government would only accept part of the offer; the savings could be considered as Tonga's contribution to the Fund.

733. ***Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.*** The representative of the USSR announced that his Government would continue to provide fellowships for study in the USSR. The exact number of seminars and workshops to be conducted in the USSR for participants from developing countries in the ESCAP region would be conveyed to the secretariat in the near future. In addition, his Government would continue to provide expert services on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

734. ***Vanuatu.*** The representative of Vanuatu announced that his Government would contribute $US 1,000 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

735. ***Viet Nam.*** The representative of Viet Nam announced the following contributions:

	$US
APCTT	1,000
CGPRT Centre	1,000

In addition, Viet Nam would contribute $US 1,500 to APDC.

736. ***Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*** The representative of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands indicated that his Government had already remitted to the secretariat its 1991 contribution of $US 2,500 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

737. ***Federated States of Micronesia.*** The representative of the Federated States of Micronesia indicated that his Government had already remitted to the secretariat its 1991 contribution of $US 5,000 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

738. ***Hong Kong.*** The representative of Hong Kong announced that his Government would contribute $US 25,000 to SIAP.

739. ***Macau.*** The representative of Macau indicated that, as Macau had just been admitted as a new associate member, the matter would be looked into at a later stage.

740. ***Republic of the Marshall Islands.*** The representative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands indicated that his Government had already remitted to the secretariat its 1991 contribution of $US 2,500 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

741. ***Germany.*** The representative of Germany informed the Commission that the development assistance programme to ESCAP in 1990 amounted to DM 3.3 million. His Government had been providing three long-term experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis in 1990 in the areas of agriculture, international trade, and transport and communications; he indicated that his Government would continue to provide long-term experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis to ESCAP in 1991.

742. ***Norway.*** The representative of Norway had advised the secretariat earlier that the total resource base for programming of projects in 1991 would be approximately $US 1 million, inclusive of savings on completed projects accumulated from previous years.

743. The total pledges of contributions for 1991 made by 27 members and associate members and 2 observer States amounted to approximately $US 14.77 million, of which $US 12.55 million was in cash and the remaining $US 2.2 million in kind. The total cash contributions also included financial assistance amounting to about $US 1.82 million to CCOP, APDC, the Interim Mekong Committee and other affiliated programmes of ESCAP. The net contribution in cash to the regional institutions and the ESCAP programme of work thus amounted to

$US 10.73 million, representing an increase of $US 1.73 million, or 19 per cent over the 1990 announcement of intended cash contributions made by members and associate members and observers.

744. The total pledges mentioned above did not include possible contributions from other member and donor countries which had made no announcement of intended contributions at the current session, nor several contributions pledged in kind, the value of which was not yet known. In addition, extrabudgetary resources received from UNDP, UNFPA and other agencies of the United Nations system for ESCAP-executed projects were not reflected in the total pledges.

745. The Executive Secretary expressed deep appreciation of the announcement of intended contributions by member and donor Governments to the extrabudgetary resources of ESCAP, which was an important feature of the Commission session and reflected the commitment of countries, both developed countries in and outside the region and developing countries in the region, to the ESCAP programme of work. The Executive Secretary also expressed deep appreciation of the strong support the Governments of Germany, Norway, Sweden and the USSR had been providing to ESCAP over the years.

746. The Executive Secretary emphasized that the support of developing countries, in particular the least developed and island developing countries, to the regional institutions and the ESCAP programme of work was most heartening.

747. He noted with great appreciation the increase in contributions to the Pacific Trust Fund and hoped that the Fund would become a self-financing programme in the very near future.

748. The Executive Secretary called attention to the secretariat's efforts to establish accountability by setting up the Operations Evaluation Unit, although the Unit had not been easy to maintain in view of the scarce regular budget resources.

749. He acknowledged with appreciation the increase in the contribution of the Government of the Republic of Korea to the Korea-ESCAP Co-operation Fund. He expressed the hope that other developing countries would follow that scheme of cooperation in the very near future.

Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Asian and Pacific Development Centre

750. The Commission had before it the report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre for 1990, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/821).

751. The Director of the Centre observed that 1990 had marked the 10th anniversary of the Centre as an autonomous intergovernmental institution, owned and governed by its member Governments. It had also seen the end of its third phase work programme and the beginning of a new work programme.

752. He highlighted significant developments that had occurred in the area of institutional development and the work programme of the Centre.

753. During 1990, the membership of the Centre had increased from 18 to 20 with the entry of Fiji and Papua New Guinea. Although there had been a slight reduction in total member country contributions from $US 880,500 in 1989 to $US 845,250 in 1990, programme support had been provided adequately by UNDP and other donor agencies. UNDP had contributed $US 586,516; the contributions of other donor agencies amounted to $US 504,933, an increase of $US 64,496 over the previous year.

754. In terms of the operating fund, although the Centre had recorded a deficit of $US 175,455, the Director expressed confidence that the Centre would continue to grow institutionally with more prompt payments by members, an anticipated increase in non-regional members, and expanded income-generating activities, such as advisory/consultancy services, in the future.

755. Under the third phase work programme, 38 research, training and experience-sharing projects had been undertaken. Those comprised both urgent national issues such as rural poverty, human resources development, women in development, and energy planning and management, and urgent regional issues which focused on new structural adjustment on a regional basis.

756. He emphasized four other developments. First, the clientele profile of the Centre had shifted from essentially research institutions to a new clientele, which now included policy makers, national planners, administrators, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. Second, there was now a better functional mix in terms of research, training and experience sharing in its projects. Third, the Centre had begun to step up the advisory/consultancy services mandated in its charter, with [illegible] active support of donor agencies. Thus, the Centre had undertaken no less than 15 such assignments and earned $US 217,351 over the previous four years. Fourth, the Centre's networking strategy, which now linked no less than 235 institutions in 22 countries in the region, had yielded positive results and proved its effectiveness for regional cooperation and institution building. That was perhaps most evident from the national and regional activities of the Asian and Pacific Energy Planning Network (APENPLAN), the Asian and Pacific Development Informatics Network (APDIN) and the strengthening of ASEAN and South Asian Conferences on Reforms in the Civil Service.

757. He concluded by saying that the thrust of the new work plan that began in 1991 would be guided by the immediate development priorities of member countries, by issues that were of a longer term nature and by the Centre's own established comparative advantages. Thus, a majority of the projects would either be extensions or spin-offs of earlier work. In addition, new issues would focus on three themes: increasing the capacity of the poor to overcome poverty; increasing institutional capacity to manage national development and change; and increasing the capacity to adjust to the changing global environment. He therefore looked forward to receiving the continued

support and cooperation of both member countries and donor agencies.

758. The delegation of Viet Nam expressed great satisfaction with the programmes and activities conducted by APDC and urged that stronger support be provided for its future activities.

759. The representative of the Republic of Korea also expressed satisfaction with the programme and activities conducted by APDC and stated that his Government would consider an increase in its contribution to APDC yet again in 1991.

Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas

760. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/802).

761. It was informed that the number of Professional and support staff in the CCOP Technical Secretariat had amounted to 22 during the past year, and the Secretariat had managed to obtain commitments for three additional experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis during the first half of 1991 to enable the work programme to be implemented more effectively. Several institutional arrangements had been implemented to improve the efficiency of the Secretariat's functioning, regular consultations had commenced with the ESCAP Natural Resources Division and the financial reserve had increased. As a result, marked progress had been made by CCOP in the past year, in both its institutional foundation and project implementation.

762. Programme support had continued to be provided by cooperating countries, UNDP and other organizations. That had made possible the implementation of many important projects concerning hydrocarbons, offshore mineral surveys, Quaternary geology, aeromagnetic map compilation, marine environment and safety, and studies of the East Asian tectonics and resources. For the first mapping project (phase I), six sheets on the total thickness of the Tertiary sedimentary basins in offshore areas of East Asia had been sent to the Geological Survey of Japan for printing. Training had continued to be an important and integral part of CCOP work. The extensive training programme, consisting of on-the-job and in-house training, fellowships and workshops, had been offered to over 180 participants from the member countries. Several publications on the results of investigations in the region had been issued during the year.

763. During the year the Interim Programme Development Committee had met four times to formulate the long-term corporate plan of CCOP and a mechanism to develop a funding base for CCOP in line with that plan. In consultation with the ESCAP Natural Resources Division, an advisory mission to assess the financial and organizational restructuring of CCOP after 1991 had been completed early in 1991.

764. With regard to headquarters facilities, the Commission noted that progress in the finalization of an interim headquarters agreement with the Royal Thai Government was expected before the Steering Committee meeting to be held at Bangkok in May 1991.

765. The Commission noted the appreciation expressed by the member and cooperating countries of the work undertaken by the CCOP Secretariat. It also noted that the member countries had benefited greatly from the CCOP work on offshore hydrocarbons and mineral resources, as well as from the manpower training programme. It further noted the request by the member countries that the CCOP Secretariat's activities in those fields be continued and strengthened in 1991, and that the mapping programme on sedimentary basins in offshore areas of East Asia, as well as the development of software on a resource assessment database, be continued and expanded.

766. It was informed that some cooperating countries had offered support and assistance in a number of activities relevant to the work programme of CCOP.

767. The Commission expressed appreciation of the support provided to CCOP by the ESCAP secretariat, UNDP and the cooperating countries and organizations. There was a strong request from the member countries that UNDP continue its support during the programming cycle 1992-1996.

Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

768. The Commission had before it the report of the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, 1990 transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/803).

769. The Chairman of the Interim Mekong Committee for 1991 reported in detail on the progress achieved by the Committee. He noted significant policy shifts that gave greater focus to the regional mandate of the Committee, to the emerging programme approach in its work and to the emphasis on mainstream development.

770. He reported an increase of 28 per cent in resources in cash and in kind of the Committee in 1990 compared with 1989 and noted that if the Committee decided to proceed with the completion of a feasibility study for a mainstream project, as much as an 80 per cent increase in financing would be required in 1992.

771. The Chairman noted the successful plenary session held in February 1991 at Luang Prabang, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which had marked the first Chinese participation in the Committee's activities. That was greatly welcomed by both Committee members and donors since China could contribute significantly to successful development in the lower basin. It was hoped that corresponding collaboration could be initiated with Myanmar.

772. The Chairman noted that preparatory activities had begun in Cambodia on the collection of technical and scientific data of considerable importance to all members of the Committee.

773. The restructuring of the Committee's secretariat was noted, particularly the emphasis on basin planning and the further training of riparian nationals, with emphasis on human resources development.

774. Interventions followed by delegations from China, France, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam. The shift toward regional projects of basin-wide significance and emphasis on the mainstream were strongly supported. Appreciation was placed on record of the organization and hospitality of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which had contributed to a most successful thirty-third session of the Mekong Committee, held in February 1991. The representative of the Netherlands observed that the Mekong Committee was an important instrument for regional cooperation and one of the most successful offspring of ESCAP. Delegations expressed the hope that Cambodia would soon be able to resume membership in the Committee.

775. The Executive Agent of the Committee expressed appreciation of the statements of encouragement and support for the Committee's new directions of emphasis. Increased donor support would be manifested by concrete project activities and continued attention to environmental and social aspects of development, in addition to economic and technical considerations. He observed that the magnitude of resettlement in conjunction with the construction of dams posed a formidable challenge. He expressed conviction, however, that the vibrant economic growth in the lower basin, the time-frame remaining for well-planned resettlement and the political will to address those issues responsibly could ensure success. Inaction would deny opportunities for the least developed countries which were members of the Committee to develop their important hydropower resources fully.

Typhoon Committee

776. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/804).

777. The Commission was informed that the twenty-third session of the Typhoon Committee had been held at Seoul from 13 to 19 November 1990. It was pleased to note that the Typhoon Committee had achieved considerable progress in the meteorological, hydrological, disaster prevention and preparedness, training, and research components of its work.

778. The Commission was informed that, with respect to the hydrological component, Committee members had made sustained efforts towards establishing or improving the flood forecasting and warning systems in their respective major river basins; ESCAP had published the *Manual and Guidelines for Comprehensive Flood Loss Prevention and Management* and undertaken roving training seminars in all the member countries or areas. The Commission directed the secretariat to continue its substantive support to the work of the Typhoon Committee.

779. The Commission was also informed that a project document on reduction of natural disasters related to typhoons had been drafted for submission to UNDP for consideration for funding; it included subprojects on integrated river system development and management with reference to comprehensive flood loss prevention and management and on storm surge analysis and mapping, to be undertaken by ESCAP if funds became available. The Commission expressed support for those two activities.

780. The Commission expressed appreciation to Japan, of the continued provision of host facilities to the Typhoon Committee Secretariat; to the Philippines, of the services of expert staff; and to China, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, of their contributions to the Trust Fund. The Commission also thanked UNDP for its support to the Typhoon Committee and expressed the hope that that assistance would continue in the future.

781. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) presented a brief account of the activities of WMO related to natural disaster reduction. He assured the Commission that WMO would continue its support to the Typhoon Committee in the future in close cooperation with ESCAP.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

782. The Commission considered and endorsed documents E/ESCAP/805 and Add.1, the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission. It expressed appreciation of the report, which had been prepared and introduced by the Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

783. The Commission noted that ACPR had held eight regular sessions and one informal session since the previous Commission session, at which it had reviewed the conduct of the forty-sixth session of the Commission and made several recommendations to improve future sessions; reviewed the preparations for and conduct of three legislative committee meetings and the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific; considered the theme topic for the forty-eighth session of the Commission; reviewed the report of the Group of Eminent Persons on Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission; reviewed progress in the implementation of resolutions and major decisions adopted by the Commission at its forty-sixth session; and reviewed the proposed programme changes for 1991 and the draft programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993; reviewed the tentative calendar of meetings for the period 1991-1992; and reviewed the regular budget resources of ESCAP. ACPR had also assisted in the organizational and substantive preparations for the forty-seventh session of the Commission.

784. The Commission expressed appreciation to ACPR, of having reviewed, at its informal session, the draft programme of work, 1992-1993 of the Commission, which had facilitated the Commission's discussions on the subject.

785. The Commission commended the work of ACPR, noting that it had performed a highly useful and effective role as a consultative and advisory body in strengthening communications among members and associate members of the Commission and between it and the secretariat. ACPR had in particular facilitated the consideration of important issues and consultations with respect to the in-depth study of the Group of Eminent Persons on Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission, the preparations and follow-up of the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the forty-seventh session of the Commission.

786. The Commission observed that the work and role of ACPR could be enhanced further, particularly with the representation of more of the developing countries and with their active participation. It was also necessary to explore practical means of including the views and participation of those countries without representatives at Bangkok, where the meetings were held.

787. The Commission generally endorsed the holding of the meetings of ACPR once a month and recommended that additional meetings could be convened as and when necessary, between the monthly meetings.

788. The Executive Secretary expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation to ACPR for the cooperation and assistance extended to him and the secretariat in their tasks. The important role of ACPR in facilitating the work of the Commission was well recognized. He fully concurred that the participation of members not represented at Bangkok was important in order that their perspectives could be better reflected in the work of the Commission. In that regard, he expressed the hope that with additional contributions to the Pacific Trust Fund and the cooperation of ACPR, means could be found to make possible their attendance at a meeting at least once a year for discussions on special concerns.

Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the forty-eighth session of the Commission

789. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/806 and ESCAP(XLVII)/INF.6. It accepted with appreciation the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China to hold the forty-eighth session at Beijing during the second half of April 1992. The Executive Secretary, after consultation with the host Government and the Chairman, would determine the exact dates of the session and inform the members and associate members of the Commission accordingly. The Government of the People's Republic of China agreed to bear all responsibility for the additional administrative, logistical and financial expenditure involved in holding the session away from the headquarters of the Commission and to fulfil the obligations under the standard agreement between the United Nations and the host Government.

790. The secretariat was requested to take the necessary steps to seek the approval of the Economic and Social Council and the endorsement of the United Nations General Assembly in that regard. The Executive Secretary assured the representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China of the full cooperation of the secretariat in holding the forty-eighth session at Beijing.

791. The Commission endorsed "Regional economic cooperation in the ESCAP region: prospects, priorities and policy options" as the theme topic for its forty-eighth session. The theme topic was especially appropriate at a time when the Commission itself had fully recognized the importance of regional cooperation as a catalyst in the development process for the developing countries of the region. Accordingly, the Commission emphasized that the in-depth study to be undertaken by the secretariat on the theme topic should include issues which had already been identified as having considerable potential for regional economic cooperation and for enabling a more rapid transformation of many of the region's developing countries which had so far not been able to share the region's overall dynamism. The Commission therefore decided that the study should address the following four major sub-themes:

(1) Increasing intraregional flows of investment and development finance;

(2) Increasing complementarities and intra-regional trade;

(3) Regional cooperation in science and technology;

(4) Development of regional infrastructures.

The study should, however, concentrate primarily on the first two sub-themes for detailed and in-depth treatment, and cover the other two only briefly, to the extent necessary. The study should be policy-oriented; it should examine appropriate proposals and suggest policy measures for achieving related objectives at the regional and national levels. The Commission welcomed the proposal of the Government of the People's Republic of China to host an intergovernmental meeting on regional cooperation in October 1991 and expressed the view that that meeting should, *inter alia*, review the study being undertaken to provide it with sharper focus and well-defined orientation.

Admission of new members

792. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/819 and E/ESCAP/820. It considered and unanimously endorsed the applications of Kiribati to become a member and Macau an associate member of ESCAP.

793. The Commission approved two draft resolutions relating to the amendment of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of its terms of reference in the light of the admission of Kiribati as a member and Macau as an associate member of ESCAP, for submission to the Economic and Social Council for action.

Adoption of the report of the Commission

794. At its 724th meeting on 10 April 1991, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft report.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

47/1. Seoul Declaration on Regional Cooperation[1]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Acknowledging the inspiring address of the President of the Republic of Korea on the occasion of its forty-seventh session and endorsing his desire that ESCAP continue to play an important role in strengthening regional cooperation as well as promoting friendly and cooperative relations among members and associate members of the Commission,

Recognizing that ESCAP, as the principal arm of the United Nations in the Asian and Pacific region and as the regional intergovernmental forum with the broadest membership, has continued to provide opportunities for members and associate members to meet every year at the ministerial level to review and discuss major economic and social issues from the standpoint of the Asian and Pacific region,

Recognizing also the contributions made and the major role played by the Commission as a driving force for regional cooperation which has contributed to the development of a common will among the countries in the Asian and Pacific region,

Recognizing further the dynamism and vitality of the Asian and Pacific region and the need to utilize fully existing subregional organizations in the region with a view to fostering appropriate cooperation and interaction between them to enhance progress in the region,

Noting that, with the spread of a reconciliatory and cooperative atmosphere in the region, members and associate members are now able to give priority to the socio-economic development of their countries rather than confronting each other with ideologies and systems,

Recalling, inter alia, the declaration made at the seventh session of the Commission, held at Lahore in 1951, generally known as the Lahore Convention, the Tokyo Declaration made at the thirteenth session in 1967, the Kabul Declaration on Asian Economic Co-operation and Development adopted at the Fourth Council of Ministers on Asian Economic Co-operation in 1970, and the Declaration on the Fortieth Anniversary of ESCAP adopted at the forty-third session in 1987, which have provided policy directions for regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Declares* that regional cooperation is of paramount importance and that the promotion of a spirit of good will and friendly relations among all countries of Asia and the Pacific is essential in broadening such cooperation;

2. *Reaffirms* the role of ESCAP, as mandated by the United Nations General Assembly, as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region;

3. *Urges* all members and associate members to reaffirm their political will, redouble their resolve and take concerted action to strengthen regional cooperation with a view to meeting effectively the economic and social development challenges in the coming decades.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/2. Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific[2]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development in 1979, and resolutions GC/Res. 18 of 23 November 1989 on the Special Programme for the Industrial Development of Asia and the Pacific, and GC/Res. 19 of 24 November 1989 on industrial investment promotion, adopted by the Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization,

Recalling also Commission resolutions 235 (XL) of 27 April 1984 on the Tokyo Programme on Technology for Development in Asia and the Pacific, 256 (XLII) of 2 May 1986 on the ESCAP Plan of Action on National and Regional Initiatives for Human Resources Development: Its Technological Dimensions, and 274 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990 on the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990 on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, especially the sections on science and technology, and industrial policies and measures, which emphasize:

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[1] See para. 175 above.

[2] See para. 217 above.

(a) That the reactivation of development in the decade of the 1990s on a sustained base would be closely related to the ability of the developing countries to participate in the rapid advances in science and technology that have characterized the global economy in recent years and will continue in the future;

(b) That industrial progress in developing countries can also be significantly enhanced through cooperation among such countries at the global, regional and subregional levels;

(c) That the integration of markets of developing countries, the setting up of joint ventures and programmes for training and upgrading skills must be among the objectives of policies and measures to promote industrialization during the 1990s,

Recognizing that the deliberation by the Commission on specific theme topics of current importance has resulted in strengthening sectoral and intersectoral substantive activities within the framework of the secretariat's programme of work,

Taking into account the findings of the studies undertaken by the secretariat in 1989 and 1990 on economic restructuring, and in 1991 on industrial restructuring, in Asia and the Pacific,

Taking into consideration the ongoing activities of the ESCAP secretariat in the fields of industrial and technological development,

Recognizing the critical and important contribution of the industrial sector to the overall process of restructuring for economic progress,

Recognizing also that the developing economies of the region are on the threshold of a new era of economic, industrial and technological change,

1. *Welcomes* the plan of action for promoting industrial restructuring in Asia and the Pacific as set forth in the annex to the present resolution as a comprehensive and constructive basis for further discussion;

2. *Decides* that the plan of action shall be called the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific;

3. *Invites* all members and associate members to intensify their efforts to strengthen regional cooperation for accelerating the pace of industrial and technological development and to initiate cooperative measures for this purpose;

4. *Requests* developed countries, developing countries in a position to do so, relevant United Nations agencies and bodies, and other international agencies to render active support to the developing members and associate members of the Commission for accelerating their industrial and technological development, taking into account the needs of least developed, land-locked and island developing countries;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To organize a meeting of senior officials of members and associate members of the Commission to deliberate further on the plan of action with a view to examining its content, priorities and modalities for promoting industrial restructuring in the ESCAP region;

(b) To invite members and associate members to consider including representatives of the private sector as participants in national delegations where appropriate;

(c) To present the report of the meeting of senior officials to the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, scheduled to be held at Tehran early in 1992, for their consideration;

(d) To report to the Commission at its forty-eighth session on the outcome of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology;

6. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to seek the cooperation and support of relevant global agencies and bodies, in particular the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in the work preparatory to the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology;

7. *Requests* the donor countries and agencies, especially the United Nations Development Programme, to provide extrabudgetary assistance to the secretariat for carrying out the activities mentioned in paragraph 5 of this resolution.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

Annex

DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION FOR PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING IN THE ESCAP REGION

Part One

I. BASIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR FACILITATING INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION

1. The dynamic economic performance of several Asian and Pacific economies has given rise to new opportunities for promoting and strengthening regional cooperation in accelerating the overall industrial development as well as in achieving structural change in the manufacturing subsector with a view to improving industrial competitiveness and efficiency. Increased international trade, foreign direct investment flows and technological innovation and diffusion have appeared as important elements in forging such cooperation. Official development assistance (ODA) and various forms of commercial lending have also fostered greater linkages among developed and developing economies.

2. Furthermore, the growing trend towards economic integration and interdependence at both the

regional and global levels has spurred the search for new ways and means not only to create and preserve an open Asian and Pacific region but also to promote further economic and technical cooperation (ECDC/TCDC) in the region. While increased economic interdependence has accelerated the process of industrial restructuring in the region, a relatively open trading environment is essential for the process to develop firm roots. In this context, the major challenges arising from increased economic interdependence include structural imbalances in trade, the need to adjust to more open and competitive markets, and the need to stimulate new patterns of growth. The overall dynamic performance of the Asian and Pacific region has been accompanied by an uneven pattern and levels of growth among economies, which in itself has brightened the prospects for further regional cooperation among Asian and Pacific economies in the process of industrial restructuring.

3. Trade has been a major factor in bringing significant benefits to the economies of the Asian and Pacific region. However, as pointed out in the ESCAP study on industrial restructuring, there are sufficient reasons to believe that protectionist efforts in certain economies will probably continue for some time. If such a tendency becomes prevalent, it would be profoundly tragic, threatening the relatively open trading system which has brought major benefits to the region in such a short period of time, and affecting negatively the aspirations of many weaker economies of the region to achieve accelerated industrialization and thereby to fight acute poverty.

4. It is possible for the Asian and Pacific economies to contribute increasingly towards improving the regional trading environment through cooperation and various collective action. The general movement towards removing unnecessary barriers to trade and proceeding along a growth path that involves more useful private sector participation, public-private sector cooperation and increased investment in technological and human resources development at both the regional and the national levels would significantly facilitate that process.

5. The Asian and Pacific region, more than any other developing region, has encouraged foreign direct investment, giving rise to increased opportunities for greater participation of firms from other developed economies and bringing new management skills and marketing techniques to the host countries. These benefits can be enhanced by involving the small and medium-sized firms in different economies through increased provision of capital and technology flows among such firms.

6. Foreign direct investment can be an important facilitator in the process of industrial restructuring in the region. As production of manufactured goods in the advanced countries matures and becomes more standardized, it becomes less profitable to produce those goods at home. Production is located abroad and the resources thus released are used to produce new lines of products, while the recipient countries undertake the production of standardized products. Hence, this process of foreign direct investment has been one of the key elements in enhancing industrial restructuring and structural change in the region. The attendant globalization of production thus promotes the economic efficiency of the international division of labour.

7. The emergence of the newly industrializing economies as important suppliers of foreign direct investment to developing economies in the region is also an important development. Many factors are behind this emerging trend, including the need to recycle the large trade surpluses of some of the newly industrializing economies of the region, as well as the changing comparative advantage of these economies relative to others. Labour costs have increased significantly in all of these economies, and it is no longer profitable for them to produce many standardized goods. The newly industrializing economies are therefore moving into more sophisticated production lines, and vacating many which have now become profitable for other developing economies in the region.

8. Industrial restructuring is a complex process that involves interrelationships between trade, investment and technology transfer in a situation of changing comparative advantage across economies and over time. Governments play an important role in the process through the creation of adequate infrastructure, a supportive policy environment, assistance in technology transfer and safeguarding of environmental concerns, all of which require priority attention. These national-level priorities have to be supported through regional-level action if industrial growth and structural transformation in manufacturing are to achieve efficient resource utilization and improvement in manufacturing competitiveness.

9. The slow but fairly steady progression in industrial reform in many centrally planned economies of the region constitutes an important feature of the recent industrial restructuring experience. However, the transition to a more market-based industrialization strategy is not likely to be easy and smooth, at least in the short run. Support in the form of finance, technology and expertise will be needed to improve the prospects for effective industrial restructuring and improvement of the economic efficiency in those economies. Therefore, increased regional cooperation towards a successful transition to more competitive and dynamic industrial structures in the centrally planned economies could receive priority attention.

10. As pointed out in the ESCAP study, despite the spectacular dynamism demonstrated by the region as a whole, several economies have failed to benefit from the growth impulses, and expansion in trade, capital flows and technological progress have brought limited benefits to them. Certain adverse external factors have also greatly constrained the development of a sound industrial base in these economies. As a consequence, their integration with the global economy is still far from complete, and they remain at its periphery. One of the major tasks facing the international community, therefore, will be to assist these economies through increased support measures to integrate rapidly and effectively in the global and regional economies. In that regard, regional cooperation measures should be strengthened in order to alleviate the effects of the physical isolation and geographical handicap of these economies, and sufficient attention should be paid to assisting them in improving their infrastructure facilities as well as in developing human resources and technological facilities.

11. Although the distinct trend towards greater interdependence and globalization of industrial

production in the Asian and Pacific region has brought many opportunities, no systematic approach has been articulated to meet the many challenges inherent in strengthening regional cooperation for accelerating the industrial development in general and for promoting structural change in the manufacturing sector in particular. At the subregional level, the establishment of various forums to increase economic cooperation and consultation have served to diffuse tension but these forums are not sufficiently comprehensive to enable all the region's economies to take full advantage of the many opportunities that are likely to unfold during the 1990s. Therefore, there is a need for concerted action through greater involvement of a regional organization such as ESCAP, with the active cooperation and involvement of other relevant international bodies and organizations, in assisting these economies in that respect. The active involvement and assistance of subregional groups and specific bilateral arrangements would also be necessary to support and strengthen those regional efforts and action.

II. PRINCIPLES

12. The plan of action on promoting industrial restructuring in the ESCAP region has been formulated taking the following principles into account:

(a) Industrial development promotes overall economic growth and social progress, provided the countries invest adequately in the creation of advanced factors, especially modern infrastructure and skilled human resources required for meeting the new challenges as a result of the rapidly changing global and regional economic and technological situations.

(b) Industrial restructuring and the concomitant structural transformation in manufacturing play decisive roles in developing a competitive and resilient national economy. Since it is the people who are the intended beneficiaries of development, industrial restructuring should aim at improving the overall welfare and meeting adequately the needs of the people as a whole.

(c) Industrial restructuring contributes to the attainment of fundamental development objectives and ideals such as the alleviation of absolute and relative poverty, increased employment, improvement in national science and technological capability, and satisfaction of basic needs.

(d) In view of the close and continuing interconnections between industrial restructuring and all aspects of economic and social progress, an integrated approach to the planning and implementation of industrial restructuring is required, involving the active participation of all relevant sectors.

(e) In achieving the goal of lasting structural change in industry, a broad-based framework for the effective planning and implementation of industrial restructuring in the ESCAP region should comprise the adoption of higher value-added and competitive manufacturing processes, development of human resources, upgrading of technology, pursuit of an appropriate macro-economic environment and maintenance of an open and fair international trading system.

(f) In the planning and implementation of regional cooperation measures for industrial restructuring particular emphasis should be placed on key aspects of developing and diversifying manufacturing activities in the least developed, land-locked and island developing economies.

(g) In the implementation of industrial restructuring plans and programmes at the national level the support of enabler groups, exercising a direct catalytic effect on the industrial restructuring process, should be sought.

(h) Rapid changes in internal as well as external economic and social conditions require that built-in flexibility, including an emphasis on indicative rather than prescriptive content, are emphasized in the planning and implementation of industrial restructuring.

(i) In designing regional approaches to the planning and implementation of industrial restructuring, due attention should be paid to the diversity of national experience and situations in the ESCAP region.

(j) Short- and long-term effects on environmental and social aspects should be considered in the formulation of national programmes and activities for industrial restructuring.

(k) The formulation and implementation of national strategies, policies, plans and programmes for industrial restructuring are the sovereign right and responsibility of each member and associate member of ESCAP, to be carried out within the context of its specific national development needs and objectives.

(l) Regional cooperation and technical assistance in support of national strategies, policies, plans and programmes for industrial restructuring would make an important contribution to the enhancement of economic and social progress in all developing economies, especially in the weaker ones such as the least developed and island developing economies.

Part Two

RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

Introduction

1. The plan of action on industrial restructuring in the ESCAP region embodies a framework of broad principles and guidelines based on the major findings, conclusions and recommendations of the ESCAP theme study on industrial restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, in particular with a view to strengthening regional cooperation.

2. The plan of action enumerates 20 broad policy recommendations and 76 specific proposals for action at national and regional levels with reference to the role of ESCAP and other global and regional organizations as appropriate. These recommendations and proposals have been grouped under five functional headings. It is hoped that various participating bodies,

national agencies, organizations and other relevant institutions, including non-governmental organizations, will prepare and implement specific programmes and projects in order to carry out the plan.

3. While recognizing that industrial restructuring is a process with multifaceted dimensions, repercussions and implications, the plan does not endeavour to be comprehensive. The principal focus of the plan is on critical issues and on specific measures of high urgency needed to facilitate industrial restructuring in the Asian and Pacific region. The plan also identifies focal points, target groups and enabling institutions which could implement its various recommendations and proposals effectively.

4. The major theme running through the recommendations and proposals for action is the achievement of lasting structural change in industry through the adoption of higher value-added and competitive manufacturing processes. Human resources development, upgrading of technology, pursuit of appropriate macro-economic policies, maintenance of an open and fair international trading system and provision of modern infrastructure facilities, especially transport and communications facilities, constitute the necessary prerequisites for effective industrial restructuring.

I. National policy, planning and programming for industrial restructuring

Recommendation 1

In order to utilize fully the potential of the industrial sector as a prime mover of social and economic development, Governments may wish to accord high priority to structural transformation of the manufacturing sector through the promotion of intrasectoral and intersectoral linkages and to implement flexible policies and programmes, keeping in view the fast-changing global and regional economic and technological situation.

Proposals for action

(1) Structural transformation in manufacturing should be accorded high priority within the context of overall national development planning.

(2) At the national level, policy and planning bodies for industrial restructuring should be established, where they do not exist, at an appropriately high level in order to accord due recognition to industrial restructuring in national development plans.

(3) Adequate resources need to be allocated for enhancing national capability, especially in planning and programming, for appropriate industrial restructuring.

Recommendation 2

Comprehensive and flexible national plans of action for industrial restructuring need to be developed and implemented. In recognition of the need for the active participation and cooperation of the relevant sectors, including the public and private sectors, the commitment and attention of the national leadership to the successful development and implementation of national plans of action for industrial restructuring are necessary.

Proposals for action

(4) Plans of action for industrial restructuring with a focus on medium- to long-term prospects should be developed and implemented at the national level. This is especially essential in weaker economies such as the least developed and island developing economies of the region, where entrepreneurship and the capability of the private sector are still at an early stage of development.

(5) National plans of action for industrial restructuring should allow maximum intersectoral as well as intrasectoral linkages to be generated and sustained, including the effective establishment of such linkages with rural industries and other informal activities.

(6) National plans of action for industrial restructuring should make adequate provision for attenuating the social costs of structural adjustment, especially those borne by the weaker sections of society.

(7) National plans of action for industrial restructuring should be formulated through close and continuing consultation with both the public and private sectors.

Recommendation 3

Governments will continue to play a determining role in industrial restructuring. However, in view of the growing recognition of the potential of the private sector in facilitating the process of industrial restructuring, appropriate liberalization and deregulation measures may be implemented with the Government playing a supportive role.

Proposals for action

(8) Government could consider, within the overall context of its development objectives, the creation of an environment conducive to industrial restructuring through the adoption of appropriate flexible macro-economic and sectoral policies and programmes, keeping in view the changing global and regional economic situations. In that context, general flexibility and appropriate reorientation of policies would be necessary to sustain the confidence of both the private and the public sectors in further industrialization and structural changes in the industrial sector.

(9) It is necessary to adopt specific industrial restructuring measures with a view to harnessing the full potential of both the public and private sectors in order to create competitive and resilient industrial structures.

(10) Government, through institutional reforms and policies, with stability and qualitative improvements in policy implementation, could harness the full potential of national and foreign entrepreneurial resources for accelerating the pace of national industrial development.

Recommendation 4

Suitable methods and mechanisms should be devised in order to facilitate the adoption of an integrated and comprehensive approach to industrial restructuring. Such an approach should delineate clearly the objectives and means for instituting industrial restructuring measures within the overall context of national economic and social development goals.

Proposals for action

(11) Recognized and well-tested methods for policy formulation, planning and programming beneficial to industrial restructuring should be applied. In this context, persons responsible for the reorientation of industrial and technological policies should have opportunities for greater exposure, and sharing of experience, through study tours, visits and consultations in developed and newly industrializing economies.

(12) Interministerial and interdepartmental coordination and cooperation would be necessary to facilitate the development and implementation of an integrated approach to industrial restructuring. In this context, harmonization of activities and policies, especially fiscal and monetary policies, with industrial and technological activities and policies remains to be attempted in several countries of the region.

Recommendation 5

Technological capability plays a very important role in industrial restructuring. It is essential that high priority be accorded to disseminating information on technology availability, assessments, blending and adaptation, especially targeting small and medium-scale industries. It is essential that increased resource allocation be made for national research and development (R and D) activities. Domestic R and D institutions should be encouraged through incentives and even provided with subsidies to enter into joint R and D activities with similar foreign institutions.

Proposals for action

(13) Technological needs in core industrial sectors could be assessed and facilities for the flow of technology information could be created. Wherever they do not exist, national institutions for facilitating the transfer of technology for industrial needs should be established.

(14) Special schemes to upgrade technology for rural agro-based industries need to be developed and implemented on a priority basis.

Recommendation 6

Industrial activities and manufacturing processes are undergoing rapid change owing to technological innovation and diffusion. This has necessitated the creation of advanced factors of production, especially new industrial skills, if economies are to keep pace with intense international competition. Apart from improvements in education based on science and technology, flexible training and retraining programmes need to be emphasized at all possible levels. Failure to adopt a flexible training and retraining system would restrict critically improvements of industrial competitiveness and prospects for future industrial restructuring.

Proposals for action

(15) Critical assessments should be made of technical skill needs for industrial development, keeping in view medium- to long-term industrialization prospects.

(16) Institutional facilities should be strengthened and augmented to meet the new demands for industrial and technological skills on a priority basis.

(17) Concrete incentive schemes such as tax benefits and other measures should be provided to encourage the private sector to organize training and retraining activities.

II. Regional cooperation measures to facilitate industrial restructuring

Recommendation 7

One of the primary objectives of industrial restructuring should be the achievement of competitive and diversified industrial structures in ways that ensure maximum utilization of scarce resources and a progressive upward movement towards the production of higher value-added manufacturing outputs. In achieving that objective, industrial enterprises would have to be made the principal agents, functioning in line with national development goals.

Proposals for action

(18) The trend towards greater harmonization of industrial policies and strategies, especially in the areas of trade, investment, fiscal and financial policies, should be encouraged, thereby increasing the opportunities for further cooperation in trade and industry.

(19) Liberalization and deregulation policies pursued by national Governments to raise industrial productivity and competitiveness should be supported through the adoption of modern technology and improved organizational skills and management.

(20) The lessons of some countries of the region in effectively utilizing combinations of trade and industrial policies to foster more rapid and diversified industrial development could be shared with other countries through roving regional training seminars organized in collaboration with national policy research institutes, supported by the exchange of competent experts in industrial restructuring.

(21) A comprehensive industrial survey of the selected least developed and island developing economies could be initiated by ESCAP in close cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Asian Development Bank, with the active involvement of Governments, subregional bodies and organizations in order to prepare medium-term industrial planning and restructuring in those economies.

(22) Regional activities should be initiated to encourage industrial enterprises to act as agents for strengthening regional cooperation through suitably arranged subcontractor networks and geographical sourcing of parts and components in selected manufacturing branches, with local participation in ownership and management wherever desirable.

(23) Regional complementation schemes in selected manufacturing areas to achieve the desired rationalization, economies of scale and linkages with local producers should be promoted on an experimental basis.

(24) Regional support measures for multilateralism should be strengthened for the preservation of an open and fair global trading system.

Recommendation 8

Although the small and medium-scale industry sector has great potential for generating employment, reducing poverty and achieving regional dispersal of industrial activities, various support measures implemented in several countries of the region have generally been less successful in harnessing that potential. It is therefore desirable that special regional measures should be initiated for the promotion of the small and medium-scale industry sector.

Proposals for action

(25) Joint ventures between small and medium-scale industries of developing and developed countries should be encouraged through the implementation of technical assistance programmes aimed at the removal of excessive protection and the adoption of appropriate investment policies, including encouragement for venture capital financing.

(26) Institutional facilities for promoting the information flow required by trading companies for the marketing of outputs and for the sourcing of inputs by the small and medium-scale industries could be established in order to overcome the constraints of information, the high costs of acquiring knowledge about foreign markets, and international trade practices.

(27) A network of development agencies for small and medium-scale industries in the region should be established. The identification of a nodal agency from the existing regional organizations would constitute a first step in that direction.

Recommendation 9

Industrial investment constitutes a vital ingredient in industrial restructuring and structural change. More domestic and foreign investment resources would have to be mobilized to facilitate the industrial restructuring process in the region. Investment in new plants and equipment enhances the capital stock, leads to higher labour productivity and gives rise to multiplier effects for the entire economy.

Proposals for action

(28) Multi-year, multi-phase activities could be initiated aimed at facilitating foreign direct investment flows to the least developed and island developing economies of the region.

(29) Almost all the economies of the region have set up investment boards, granted fiscal and other incentives, and established physical infrastructure to attract foreign direct investment. Regional measures should be initiated to assist members and associate members in information-sharing among boards of investment or other promotion/servicing agencies of the countries in order to reduce search costs for investment opportunities.

(30) A regional investment clearing-house could be established to provide investors with information on possible investment opportunities in a cost-effective manner. ESCAP could provide the institutional venue for such an initiative.

(31) Lack of information about the availability, location and quality of labour is one of the obstacles in promoting foreign direct investment. A regional information clearing-house for labour availability could be established to achieve a better match, with lower search costs, between labour supply and demand.

(32) Lack of investment finance prevents many enterprises in developing economies from expanding into new areas of production, upgrading existing production technologies, undertaking marketing campaigns and improving managerial skills. It is therefore desirable to undertake measures to increase the flow of industrial finance to manufacturing enterprises.

Recommendation 10

Public sector enterprises play an important role in many economies of the region in the areas of industrial investment and employment promotion. Although they have performed well in some economies, they have encountered financial difficulties in several others. Management of public sector enterprises has assumed a critical dimension, especially in weaker economies with limited government resources. A regional programme in this respect would greatly assist the countries, especially those which have a large number of public sector industries.

Proposals for action

(33) Measures to reform public enterprises should be formulated where necessary and implemented more effectively at the national level. Regional organizations could assist national Governments through the provision of various advisory services aimed at sharing the experience and lessons of others in the region.

(34) Increased technical assistance programmes in collaboration with other relevant global specialized agencies such as UNIDO could be provided by ESCAP to improve the managerial and technical efficiency of public sector enterprises. Donors should provide additional resources to the international and regional organizations to render such services to the countries of the region.

Recommendation 11

Science and technology have become critical determinants for upgrading and restructuring industry. Technological capability, effective research and development (R and D) programmes and investment in human resources have appeared as key factors in the development of new industries and in the improvement of existing ones. International and regional agencies could assist the countries significantly in strengthening science and technological capability for industrial restructuring provided increased resources were made available to them.

Proposals for action

(35) Effective R and D programmes emphasizing close cooperation between businesses, Governments and research institutes and universities should be formulated and implemented. Regional organizations could prepare studies of successful cases and disseminate them to interested countries of the region.

(36) Technology transfer, adoption and diffusion through the activities of transnational corporations, overseas study in science-based areas, technical assistance projects, reverse engineering, exchange visits of businessmen, technical personnel, research scholars and government officials should be fostered.

(37) Technological interchange should be encouraged through the establishment of networks of science and technology institutions.

(38) Increased assistance should be provided to the least developed and island developing economies for collaborative research projects in selected industrial areas, especially agro-based products, so that the results could be licensed to domestic firms at low cost, with the objective of fostering technology diffusion.

(39) Regional programmes could be implemented to assist Governments in increasing their investment in testing and calibration equipment, as well as in an administrative structure capable of ensuring effective enforcement of product standards.

(40) Countries with similar calibration and testing requirements could pool their resources to establish regional facilities for testing, quality control and standardization.

(41) Regional initiatives could be launched for strengthening national engineering and consultancy services in order to improve the management and technological capability of industrial enterprises in the developing countries of the region.

(42) The more dynamic economies of the region could use their technical assistance budget to encourage the greater transfer of knowledge and skills from their national engineering and management firms to small and medium-sized enterprises in the weaker economies of the region.

(43) The facilities in the region for formal education should be strengthened further with a view to increasing the supply of managerial, scientific and engineering skills. Establishment of such facilities at the subregional level would be useful and beneficial.

(44) Extensive vocational and technical training should be fostered through the promotion of ECDC/TCDC in order to fulfil the relatively large industrial skill requirements in core areas of manufacturing. Selected national vocational and technical training institutes could be upgraded to regional institutions through the provision of additional resources and facilities.

(45) Assistance should be provided to countries in planning and programming for "continuing education" in order to keep pace with changing technologies, and management and skills requirements.

(46) Programmes and projects aimed at strengthening the training capability of existing national as well as regional institutes should be implemented on a priority basis, especially in areas such as telecommunications and other information technologies.

Recommendation 12

Economic development should proceed in tandem with the protection of the environment and resource conservation. A commitment to "sustainable development" is necessary and cooperation in developing and diffusing cleaner and safer industrial technologies should be strengthened.

Proposals for action

(47) Environmentally sound production techniques should be promoted through the evaluation of the environmental effects of existing production methods. A proper policy framework, incorporating regulatory and incentive regimes and proper costing of environmental resources, should be introduced.

(48) Global and regional organizations should increase their assistance to Governments in meeting the requirements of developing and utilizing new technologies and manufacturing processes that are environmentally sound and sustainable. To build up the necessary human resources for this purpose, regional and national training centres for environmental engineering and environmental management should be established.

(49) Regional cooperation measures should be adopted to deal with transnational environmental problems such as acid rain, pollution of water bodies and oceans, and deforestation. Regional efforts at establishing guidelines and agreements in dealing with environmental concerns should be intensified.

(50) Techniques and approaches should be explored for the conservation and sustainable utilization of renewable and non-renewable resources.

(51) New patterns of industrial growth should be explored in order to make the objective of employment generation compatible with environmentally sustainable use of the region's forest, land and water resources.

III. Strengthening institutional mechanisms at national and regional levels to facilitate industrial restructuring

Recommendation 13

There is a great need to achieve effective coordination of development policies, plans and goals for successful industrial restructuring. The achievement of this coordination is particularly essential as industrial restructuring is a process with multi-dimensional effects and implications. It is therefore necessary to establish appropriate national mechanisms to coordinate, formulate and implement national plans of action in industrial restructuring. In order to ensure the pursuance of common objectives of various sectors and initiate complementary projects and programmes within the framework of national plans, these mechanisms would have to be located at higher levels of government.

Proposals for action

(52) Each country could designate a national focal point to coordinate and establish a liaison with regional and global organizations involved in implementing regional and global programmes and projects aimed at promoting appropriate industrial restructuring.

(53) Creation of special cells/units in relevant economic ministries and other national bodies would be essential for liaison with the national focal point in implementing sectoral programmes in accordance with national plans.

(54) National institutional mechanisms in countries where such mechanisms do not exist should be developed and strengthened in order to achieve greater coordination between the public and private sectors in facilitating industrial restructuring.

Recommendation 14

It is essential to strengthen the administrative, technical and financial capability of research and training institutions involved in fostering industrial restructuring. Such institutions would require significant assistance not only from public sector agencies, but also from private sector industrial organizations and units. Information and other necessary assistance from the private sector would strengthen the activities of those institutions significantly.

Proposals for action

(55) Regional and national research and training institutions should be strengthened and, in this respect, the active support of the private sector is essential. It is therefore desirable to undertake a survey of the private sector organizations and industries to ascertain their interest and willingness to launch new regional initiatives in strengthening regional institutions.

(56) Special programmes for conducting research and training on issues and matters relating to industrial restructuring should be supported in public, private and non-governmental research and training institutes.

Recommendation 15

Regional scientific and technological research and development institutions should be established if necessary and supported in undertaking programmes in industrial restructuring. The activities of such organizations should be geared towards enhancing the capacity of national science and technology institutions and orienting their programmes to meet the requirements for industrial restructuring in various countries of the region.

Proposals for action

(57) The research and training activities and capabilities of national science and technology institutions should be strengthened through increased facilities and activities at the regional level, especially in adopting and diffusing technologies essential for fostering industrial restructuring.

(58) Linkages between public and private sector scientific and technological research efforts for industrial restructuring should be enhanced through the initiation of activities at the regional level.

Recommendation 16

There are many organizations and groups which can play an important role in facilitating industrial restructuring through the implementation of important segments of national plans of action. It is therefore essential to develop further the capabilities of enabler groups to facilitate the implementation of national plans of action in industrial restructuring.

Proposals for action

(59) Non-governmental organizations should be supported, especially in the area of small and medium-scale industry development. Cooperation among non-governmental organizations of different countries should be encouraged through regional initiatives. In this respect, regional workshops and study tours on industrial restructuring in which non-governmental organizations participated could be useful.

(60) The full potential of the mass media in educating the people, disseminating information and providing analyses of industrial restructuring issues should be utilized.

Recommendation 17

The implementation of the plan of action requires a regional mechanism to coordinate its implementation. The mechanism would seek to harmonize national efforts at industrial restructuring with regional measures. It would also promote regional cooperation in facilitating the industrial restructuring process.

Proposals for action

(61) A regional forum for industrial restructuring could be established to deal with key issues of concern in industrial development and restructuring in the region. The forum would bring together professional experts, high-level government officials and high ranking corporate executives. Initially the forum could be serviced by ESCAP. Eventually, on the basis of experience and after a comprehensive feasibility study, the forum could take the shape of a regional centre for promoting industrial restructuring.

IV. Policy research, analysis and studies

Recommendation 18

There are many aspects of industrial restructuring which require further study and analysis. The evolving nature of the process itself also demands continuous critical examination of the various aspects of the industrial restructuring process. Additional research activities should therefore be undertaken towards developing informed choices for policy options and strategies in industrial restructuring.

Proposals for action

(62) The regional investment strategies of industrial firms of Japan and other industrialized and

newly industrializing economies of the region require in-depth study in order to broaden understanding about their impact on industrial restructuring in other economies of the region. Such studies would be of immense benefit to the firms in developing economies attempting capacity expansion, diversification of products and the upgrading of technology.

(63) The least developed and island developing economies have generally failed to benefit from the dynamism of the Asian and Pacific region. Research could be undertaken on how those economies could be integrated more fully into the industrial growth process in the region. This research would seek to develop specific proposals for policy reforms, institution building, provision of modern physical and social infrastructure and ways to promote foreign direct investment.

(64) Adoption of new information and communication technologies will critically determine the industrial competitiveness in the coming decades. Studies to ascertain the likely effects of the advances in micro-electronics-based technologies, office and factory automation as well as communication technologies would be of significant benefit to the developing economies of the region.

(65) A study could be undertaken, detailing the experience of various Governments in the region with the management of the environmental problems generated by rapid industrialization. The study would document the extent of the industrial pollution and waste generation, examine the potential for the diffusion of "clean technologies" and suggest concrete policy and regulatory measures in addressing industrial waste/pollution problems.

(66) One of the principal reasons behind the slow industrial progress in many economies of the region is low industrial capacity utilization, which is also behind the high cost of production and the associated lack of competitiveness. A regional study is desirable to investigate the causes of low industrial capacity utilization and suggest concrete remedial measures.

(67) A research study to examine the possibilities for region-wide subcontracting among small and medium-scale industries in support of industrialization efforts would be useful especially to weaker economies such as the least developed countries of the region.

(68) The employment consequences of privatization and other deregulatory measures could be examined with a view to developing proposals to deal with the social costs of industrial restructuring.

(69) As industry and technology policies influence the structure of employment and the sectoral composition of gross domestic product (GDP), research carried out to understand the connection between a particular industry policy and inter- and intra-industry linkages and employment effects, would be useful.

(70) Industrial master plans could be prepared for several middle- to low-income countries of the region with a view to providing new directions in pursuing new investment opportunities and identifying industrial projects suitable for domestic and foreign investments.

V. Monitoring and evaluation

Recommendation 19

National policy, planning and programming for effective industrial restructuring require monitoring and evaluation on a continuous basis. It is therefore essential to institute appropriate mechanisms and procedures to monitor and evaluate industrial restructuring policies, plans and programming.

Proposals for action

(71) Procedures should be devised to monitor the implementation of industrial restructuring plans and programmes on an ongoing basis.

(72) Evaluation exercises should be conducted at suitable intervals in order to assess the relevance, impact and effectiveness of policies, plans, programmes and projects in achieving the aims and objectives of industrial restructuring.

Recommendation 20

In view of the multi-dimensional nature of the industrial restructuring process, the general monitoring and evaluation exercises need to be supplemented by detailed monitoring and evaluation of individual sectoral issues. Techniques and procedures appropriate for monitoring and evaluating specific sectoral issues in industrial restructuring are therefore needed.

Proposals for action

(73) Measures should be instituted for monitoring and evaluating trade, investment, technology, human resources development, energy and small and medium-scale industry development policies with implications for industrial restructuring.

(74) Effective techniques should be devised for monitoring and evaluating the workings of labour and financial markets in order to facilitate industrial restructuring.

(75) The impact of technological change and foreign direct investment flows and industrial restructuring should be monitored and evaluated regularly.

(76) Studies should be undertaken regularly to monitor and evaluate the possible adverse social consequences of industrial restructuring, especially on the weaker sections of the society.

Part Three

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

I. Participation

1. The various recommendations and proposals for action contained in this plan of action are intended to be indicative guidelines and may require modification in certain respects to suit specific country and industry situations.

2. The implementation of the plan of action requires that the various participants should play a

coordinated and complementary role. In the first place, participating members and associate members could prepare national plans of action, taking into account the various recommendations and proposals suggested in the plan of action. Adequate budgetary and other resource inputs for the implementation of the national plans of action would need to be mobilized by the participating Governments. The necessary institutional infrastructure, including planning and executing bodies and national coordination mechanisms, need to be established at an earlier stage, to permit the effective implementation of the various provisions as outlined in the plan of action.

3. Public sector, private sector and non-governmental organizations need to be involved actively to play supportive roles in the formulation and implementation of national plans of action. The national plans of action would have to be devised to allow for the full participation of all relevant sectors in the implementation of their constituent programmes and projects.

4. In support of national efforts as suggested in the plan of action, the active participation of intergovernmental organizations, including United Nations bodies and agencies already involved in the field of industrial development especially UNIDO and UNDP would be necessary. Involvement of other organizations, such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, which possess valuable experience should also assist the members and associate members in their efforts towards the implementation of various measures aimed at industrial development and restructuring as outlined in this plan. Within this general framework, it would be useful and desirable for a large regional organization like ESCAP to serve as the regional focal point for coordinating the implementation of this plan of action. Such an arrangement could facilitate the implementation of the plan of action at the regional level and provide support to activities carried out at the national level with active cooperation from UNIDO and UNDP.

5. It will be necessary for all concerned donor countries and agencies to give special attention and consideration to the possibility of extending financial assistance in order to ensure the full and effective implementation of programmes and projects devised in accordance with the guidelines and specific proposals for action as contained in the plan of action. Keeping in view the magnitude of the task and the importance given to its achievement by the member and associate member Governments in their promulgation of this plan of action, donor countries and agencies are urged to accord the highest priority to the allocation of adequate resources in support of activities for implementing the plan.

II. Coordination

A. *Coordination at the national level*

6. The full and effective execution of the plan of action at the national level requires the establishment of a national coordinating mechanism for industrial restructuring in each country. Existing institutional arrangements could be utilized wherever possible in preference to the establishment of additional bodies and administrative structures.

7. In developing such mechanisms, the recent experience of some countries of the region could provide useful guidelines for other countries. However, it would be necessary to take into full consideration the widely differing circumstances prevailing in the region, including differences in the organizational framework of Governments and in intersectoral relationships, in designing national coordination mechanisms for industrial restructuring.

8. As a general principle, each national coordination mechanism would consist of several elements. It would be necessary to establish a national focal point at the highest possible policy-making level, preferably as an interministerial committee serving in an advisory capacity to the chief executive. The national focal point would oversee the coordination of all national activities concerning industrial restructuring. It would also serve as the national counterpart in the regional activities launched.

9. The national focal point would require a secretariat, perhaps incorporated in a ministry dealing with industry or estabiished as a special unit within the national development planning ministry or an equivalent body. It would be responsible for formulating the national plan of action on industrial restructuring within the framework of the plan of action. It would be empowered to promote the active participation of all sectors, including private enterprise and non-governmental organizations, in the implementation of the national plan of action. It would also have responsibility for monitoring and evaluating plan implementation on a regular basis at the national level.

10. While the determination of the terms of reference of the national coordination mechanism would be the sovereign right and responsibility of each country, it would be useful to give special consideration, in establishing its national mechanism, to the means whereby national coordination might best ensure conformity between national planning efforts and the framework for regional cooperation and international support to be provided under the basic principles of the plan of action. Such conformity could be ensured by entrusting the national focal point with the national liaison function in matters concerning regional coordination of industrial restructuring activities in implementation of the plan of action.

B. *Coordination at the regional level*

11. Overall responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the plan of action on a regional basis as suggested earlier could rest with ESCAP. Important elements of the coordinating role of ESCAP would be its assistance to countries of the region in their efforts to formulate and implement plans of action at the national level and its responsibility for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the plan of action. The secretariat would be required to report to the Commission on the progress of implementation of the plan of action.

12. In order to promote active participation in implementing the plan of action, provide opportunities for the exchange of information and views on

industrial restructuring issues and ensure effective coordination among all countries in the region, it would be appropriate to convene consultation meetings from time to time. The regional forum for industrial restructuring as proposed under recommendation (61) could undertake these activities. Periodic consultations would be held, in accordance with this arrangement, among the various national focal points to ensure effective coordination within the framework provided in the plan of action. In addition, meetings of senior officials and ministerial conferences could be convened from time to time to consider special issues related to the implementation of the plan.

III. Priorities

13. While taking into account the disparate industrial development among the economies of the region, the plan of action includes several recommendations applicable to most of the economies and has also suggested special measures for disadvantaged groups of economies. However, it is not exhaustive in scope. The policy recommendations and proposals for action represent a carefully defined set of activities and are suggested as guidelines in keeping with the main industrial restructuring concerns of the economies of the region and the issues addressed in the deliberations and decisions of the various sessions of the Commission as well as other regional and international forums.

14. In particular, the plan of action has been framed, keeping the following priority needs in perspective:

(a) Critical assessments should be made, on a continuing basis, of the industrial development and restructuring process in the economies of the region;

(b) The need for promotion of industrial activities and restructuring in promoting efficiency in resource utilization and conservation should be recognized;

(c) The least developed and island developing economies should urgently receive increased assistance in creating diversified industrial structures and manufacturing exports;

(d) Regional and subregional cooperation in facilitating the industrial restructuring process should be promoted;

(e) Accelerated industrial progress and structural change through the improvement in the international competitiveness of the manufacturing sector should be supported by members and associate members.

15. Specific priorities within the framework of the plan of action will depend on and follow the formulation of programmes and projects in accordance with the proposals for action. While priority setting for national-level action will be the responsibility of the various government ministries and other agencies and organizations in both the public and private sectors, priority for the regional-level action would depend on the mandates given to the various United Nations bodies and agencies and other intergovernmental organizations participating in the implementation of the plan of action. However, a set of regional-level actions of high priority is identified below:

(i) Assistance should be provided in strengthening national capability for structural transformation in manufacturing. Increased assistance and provision of other technical assistance programmes for institution building and policy reorientation for facilitating industrial restructuring are required. To begin with, roving seminars and study tours to appraise the experience of developed and newly industrializing economies could be organized;

(ii) A regional programme to identify the crucial industrial and technological skill gaps in selected fast growing industrial branches would be of immense value in planning and programming for technical skill requirements. During the second phase of this programme, regional training programmes could be developed and launched as pilot programmes using the existing national and regional institutions. Additional resources could be provided to upgrade selected national institutions into regional institutions for technical training and retraining to meet demands for new skills as a result of technological change;

(iii) In-depth studies of selected industrial firms of developed and newly industrializing economies regarding subcontracting arrangements and geographical sourcing of parts and components should be undertaken. Such studies would provide perspectives on industrial complementation prospects as well as provide policy directions for promoting the joint ventures of small and medium-scale industries;

(iv) A regional study to assess the employment effects and other social costs of privatization measures would assist in devising policy options and expediting the implementation of various deregulation and liberalization measures. Such a study could also examine the issues and measures for public enterprise reforms;

(v) Assistance in improving the methods of industrial financing is of high priority. In this respect, regional programmes aimed at strengthening national capabilities for domestic resource mobilization, improvement in delivery of industrial financing services and other support measures would be of significant benefit to a large number of countries in the region;

(vi) A regional programme for the development of industrial consultancy, including engineering and design services would be of immense value to developing countries in general, and to least developed and island developing economies in particular. ESCAP could play a catalytic role in promoting such services at the regional level with the active cooperation of UNIDO, UNDP and other relevant organizations;

(vii) Assistance in the preparation of comprehensive industrial surveys of least developed and island developing economies would assist significantly in planning for future industrial development and restructuring in those economies. ESCAP, UNDP and ADB could jointly initiate such surveys with the national government functionaries taking responsibility for early completion of such surveys;

(viii) Special programmes could be launched to promote foreign direct investment in relatively disadvantaged groups of countries, such as least developed and island developing ones;

(ix) A regional forum for industrial restructuring in the ESCAP region could be established. To begin with, the forum could be serviced by ESCAP. A feasibility study, taking into account the views of Governments and private sector representatives could be undertaken in 1992 and if found to be feasible, the forum could eventually take the form of a regional centre for promoting industrial restructuring in the region.

IV. Time frame

16. The plan of action would require a time frame covering a reasonable number of years to ensure its effective implementation. Since industrial restructuring is inherently a long-term and dynamic process, an appropriate time span for the implementation of the plan could be the 10-year period 1992-2001.

17. The plan period leading up to 2001 could be appropriately divided into two phases: 1992-1997 and 1998-2001. The first of these periods would coincide with the phasing of the medium-term plan and the second with two biennial work programme cycles of the United Nations system. Viewed from the year of inception, these time periods could be designed, respectively, as the short- and medium-term phases of the plan period.

18. During the first phase, covering 1992-1997, the priority action discussed above would be undertaken. Among the major activities to be undertaken during this phase would be the provision of assistance to the necessary institutional framework at the national and regional levels, including the establishment of a regional forum for industrial restructuring, formulation of national plans of action in conformity with the regional guidelines and preparation of preliminary studies and pilot projects. Towards the latter part of the first phase, assistance would also be provided for the formulation of specific industrial projects aimed at efficient structural transformation in the manufacturing sector in the economies of the region.

19. The second phase would involve significant assistance in the implementation of a series of industrial projects at the national level. Regional activities would be strengthened and provided on a priority basis, especially in the fields of upgrading technology and human resources development.

47/3. Restructuring the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission[3]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980 and 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling also its observations at its forty-sixth session that the revised committee structure evolved as a result of resolution 262 (XLIII) had not functioned sufficiently effectively,

Recalling further its endorsement of the proposal of the Executive Secretary that the secretariat, with the advice of a group of eminent persons, conduct an in-depth study on the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Group of Eminent Persons on Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission,

Recalling the declaration made at the seventh session of the Commission, held at Lahore in 1951, generally known as the Lahore Convention, the Tokyo Declaration made at the thirteenth session in 1967, the Kabul Declaration on Asian Economic Co-operation and Development adopted at the Fourth Council of Ministers on Asian Economic Co-operation in 1970, and the Declaration on the Fortieth Anniversary of ESCAP adopted at the forty-third session in 1987, which have provided policy directions for regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in particular section IV in which the regional commissions were designated as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions and directed to exercise team leadership and responsibility for coordination at the regional level,

Recognizing that the complexity of the development problems faced by the developing countries demands that they be tackled in a comprehensive manner through interdisciplinary and intersectoral action,

Emphasizing the urgent need for enhanced and broad-based regional cooperation efforts in the region with a view to ensuring sustained growth and prosperity,

Reaffirming that regional cooperation is primarily the concern and responsibility of the regional members and associate members within the geographical scope of the Commission,

Reaffirming also the central role of ESCAP as the principal arm of the United Nations in promoting regional cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region,

Having considered the proposal of the Executive Secretary formulated on the basis of the report of the Group of Eminent Persons and consultations thereon,

1. *Endorses,* in general, the recommendations of the Group of Eminent Persons on Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission relating to the progressive reorganization of the work of the Commission on a thematic basis;

2. *Agrees,* in principle, to set up three thematic committees: on regional economic cooperation, on the environment and sustainable development, and on poverty alleviation and economic growth;

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[3] See para. 698 above.

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convene, before the end of 1991, a meeting of senior officials of members and associate members to consider and finalize the detailed recommendations to encompass the terms of reference, operational modalities, frequency of meetings and other relevant aspects of the revised subsidiary structure of the Commission on the basis of the report of the Group of Eminent Persons;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit the report of the meeting of senior officials, together with his assessment of the organizational, staffing and financial implications, to the Commission at its forty-eighth session for consideration and adoption.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/4. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s[4]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 42/177 of 11 December 1987, 43/186 of 20 December 1988 and 44/220 of 22 December 1989 concerning the organization of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1990, as well as its resolution 45/206 of 21 December 1990 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Recalling further the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, in which Member States stressed, *inter alia,* the need for full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Noting with appreciation the preparatory work carried out by the secretariat, in response to its resolutions 271 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 and 46/4 of 13 June 1990, in connection with the organization of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of France for hosting the Conference,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing deterioration in the overall economic and social conditions of the least developed countries in spite of all the efforts made thus far,

1. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries have the primary responsibility for the formulation and effective implementation of national policies and priorities for their growth and development;

2. *Stresses* that successful implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s will depend on shared responsibility and strengthened partnership for the growth and development of the least developed countries;

3. *Urges* all Governments, international and multilateral organizations, financial institutions and development funds, organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and other organizations concerned, to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to implement the Programme of Action;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close coordination with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) To review and monitor progress in economic cooperation between the least developed countries and other developing countries, particularly in the same region;

(b) To organize cluster meetings, preferably every two years, with all countries concerned, in order to improve and strengthen existing cooperation arrangements at the regional and subregional levels;

(c) To ensure extended coverage of the expressed needs and problems of the least developed, land-locked and small island countries of the region within the framework of the Programme of Action;

(d) To ensure that the needs and problems of the least developed countries of the region are addressed as part of the ongoing programme of work and priorities of the secretariat and to contribute to the follow-up process of the Programme of Action;

(e) To assist the least developed countries in the formulation of appropriate sectoral development strategies and policies, paying due regard to the diverse development circumstances and constraints facing the least developed countries, in accordance with the Programme of Action;

(f) To undertake the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of information on the implementation of the Programme of Action on a yearly basis, and identification and adoption of measures for full implementation of the Programme of Action during the 1990s;

5. *Endorses* subprogramme 12, Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, of the programme of work and priorities;

6. *Invites* the member countries in a position to do so, other donor countries, multilateral funding agencies and financial institutions to provide extrabudgetary support to the secretariat in its efforts to implement the Programme of Action;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

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[4] See para. 231 above.

47/5. Regional support for the alleviation of poverty[5]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, adopting the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade in which, *inter alia*, the General Assembly noted the severity of poverty problems in developing countries and agreed that the objective of eradicating poverty was of the highest priority,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 44/212 of 22 December 1989 on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recalling further the Commission's concern for improved quality of life for the rural and urban poor as expressed in its resolution 45/1 of 5 April 1989 on a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond, in which it urged that the themes of distributive justice, poverty eradication and popular participation be incorporated in the strategy, and resolution 45/4 of 5 April 1989 on an integrated programme on rural development,

Reiterating the urgent need to expand activities related to the alleviation of rural poverty and the need for the secretariat to accord top priority to such activities in its future programmes,

Deeply concerned that the ESCAP region still contains the largest concentration of people living in abject poverty, with hunger, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy and premature death being widespread and an integral part of their existence,

Noting that women and children are particularly vulnerable in situations of poverty,

Noting with concern that the growing number of landless farmers in some countries, as well as the rapidly increasing rural-urban migration all over the region, is intensifying and spreading poverty and making it an even more intractable problem,

Convinced that the sharp increase in poverty in certain developing countries of the ESCAP region, particularly the least developed countries, and the persistence of poverty even in developing countries of the region which have satisfactory growth rates, could threaten the very socio-political fabric of those countries and societies and undermine peace and harmony,

Convinced also that the difficult tasks of alleviation of poverty are multifaceted and intersectoral in character and need to be addressed urgently through an interdisciplinary approach,

Further convinced that the alleviation of poverty cannot be achieved without sustained development and accelerated economic growth,

Noting that the elimination of poverty was accorded priority under the fifth programming cycle of the United Nations Development Programme by its Governing Council,

Also noting that poverty alleviation and economic growth remains one of the main concerns of the Commission,

Recognizing the need for taking direct and more effective measures to reduce poverty, including integration of the poor into the mainstream of economic activities,

1. *Calls upon* member countries to give the highest priority to the initiation and implementation of poverty alleviation activities, wherever appropriate, by incorporating them as integral components of their respective national development plans and programmes;

2. *Invites* member countries to strengthen their existing national coordinating agencies dealing with poverty alleviation programmes or to create such mechanisms, where necessary, as well as to promote the participation of rural and urban disadvantaged communities in the decision-making process in regard to such programmes, and to alter the structural disadvantages faced by the poor in asset ownership and skills development;

3. *Calls upon* the member countries to formulate strategies to create employment, including on-farm, off-farm and non-farm employment, and self-employment, and to promote employment in the private sector, and to recognize the importance of the informal sector, thereby offering the poor an opportunity to live in human dignity;

4. *Recognizes* that a supportive international economic environment, together with a growth-oriented development approach, is crucial to the successful efforts of developing countries, particularly least developed countries, in dealing with the eradication of poverty;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To formulate appropriate policies and programmes from a regional perspective for the alleviation and eventual elimination of poverty;

(b) To accelerate the exchange of ideas, experience and expertise, through technical cooperation among developing countries where appropriate, relating to poverty alleviation policies, strategies and programmes among member countries, including grass-roots level programmes for the poor, such as landless agricultural workers, marginal and small farmers, rural artisans, urban slum dwellers, the informal sector, small-scale entrepreneurs, women workers, and other economically and socially disadvantaged people of the community;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include, as appropriate, the objective of alleviation and eradication of poverty in the consideration of issues at: (i) the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development to be held in 1991; (ii) the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference to be held in 1992; and (iii) the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization to be held also in 1992;

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[5] See para. 292 above.

7. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-ninth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution and to examine the possibility of holding a meeting at the ministerial level in 1994 on the question of poverty alleviation in the ESCAP region with particular reference to least developed countries.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/6. Assistance to the countries in the Asian and Pacific region affected by the Persian Gulf crisis[6]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the end of the hostilities in the Persian Gulf and hoping that lasting peace and security will be achieved in the region,

Noting that the Persian Gulf conflict and the subsequent imposition of economic sanctions pursuant to Security Council resolution 661 (1990) would have severe repercussions on the immediate and long-term economic outlook of many countries, particularly as regards their foreign exchange earnings and the supply of energy,

Noting also that the Persian Gulf conflict has had an adverse impact on the environment of that region,

Noting further that despite the measures already taken by the affected countries themselves to alleviate the adverse effects of the crisis there is continuing need for external assistance,

Noting the Security Council's recognition of the need to provide immediate technical, financial and material assistance on an urgent basis to States whose economies have suffered from the Persian Gulf crisis and the application of economic sanctions,

Recalling the letter of 23 January 1991 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to States Members of the United Nations and multilateral financing institutions expressing the strongest possible support to the above recommendations of the Security Council,

Noting with appreciation the generous assistance already received in response to the Secretary-General's appeal,

Stressing the urgent need for greater and continuing response to that appeal,

Aware that some of the States which have been seriously affected by the Persian Gulf crisis are in the Asian and Pacific region,

1. *Invites* member States and specialized agencies of the United Nations, multilateral financing institutions and donor countries to take the necessary and appropriate steps to assist effectively those developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region adversely affected by the Persian Gulf crisis, including assistance to allow those countries to give serious consideration to steps that might be taken to assist effectively in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Persian Gulf region;

2. *Urges* multilateral institutions to respond promptly and in an appropriate manner, to the extent possible, to the needs of those developing countries and to play a catalytic role in mobilizing additional assistance;

3. *Also urges* multilateral institutions to respond promptly and in an appropriate manner to the needs of refugees and others dislocated by the crisis and to play a catalytic role in mobilizing additional assistance for them;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and affected countries, to correlate information on the possible impact on the ESCAP region of the environmental degradation that has taken place and to inform the Commission with a view to considering possible measures;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to use his good offices with the Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council in order to obtain the assistance requested under this resolution;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to keep the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission informed of progress in implementation of the present resolution.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/7. Integration of environment and development in Asia and the Pacific[7]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Concerned at the serious threat to environmentally sound and sustainable development posed by environmental degradation and the depletion of natural resources in the ESCAP region,

Emphasizing therefore the urgent need for all countries to intensify their efforts to protect and improve the quality of the environment at the national, subregional, regional and global levels,

Recalling Commission resolution 267 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988, in which it decided to convene a ministerial-level conference on the environment in 1990,

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[6] See para. 179 above.

[7] See para. 364 above.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992, and the importance accorded to regional inputs to that Conference,

Welcoming the increased joint efforts by countries in the region towards developing policies and programmes that maintain a better balance between economic and social development and the rational use of natural resources and environmental protection, and welcoming in particular the outcome of the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok on 15 and 16 October 1990,

Realizing that lack of the necessary financial and other resources and technologies is a major factor inhibiting the ability of the developing countries of the region to participate effectively in global and regional efforts towards environmental protection,

Reaffirming the objectives in section I, subparagraphs 15 (j) and (m) of United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the need for financial resources and access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular to developing countries, for achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development,

1. *Endorses* the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development agreed upon by the Meeting of Senior Officials on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok from 13 to 19 February 1991;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for all members and associate members of the Commission to develop or strengthen their national strategies and action plans for environmentally sound and sustainable development;

3. *Endorses* the Asian and Pacific input to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development agreed upon by the Meeting of Senior Officials, for submission to the Preparatory Committee of the Conference as soon as possible;

4. *Supports* the establishment of an inter-agency committee on environment and development, as recommended by the Meeting of Senior Officials, with the purpose of enhancing coordination and strengthening regional cooperation in formulating, implementing, reviewing, monitoring and reporting on activities and initiatives in the Asian and Pacific region for the promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development;

5. *Invites* all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned, as well as regional and subregional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, multilateral funding agencies and bilateral aid agencies, to participate actively in the establishment and future work of the inter-agency committee;

6. *Calls* for the early implementation of the various recommendations of the Ministerial-level Conference, in particular the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Strategy, and for the support of donor Governments and United Nations bodies and agencies in this task;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to keep the progress of implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Strategy under review and report on this to the Commission at its annual sessions, and to develop appropriate monitoring and evaluation methods and mechanisms for this purpose;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the United Nations bodies and agencies concerned and donor Governments, to explore the feasibility of a regional funding mechanism being established for the implementation of national, regional and subregional programmes and projects for environmentally sound and sustainable development, and to report on progress in this matter to the Commission at its forty-eighth session.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/8. Regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems[8]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting that for sustainable natural resources development and environmental management, baseline data on existing natural resources and the environment, and sequential information on the changing status of natural resources and the environment are essential,

Noting also that remote sensing and the allied geographic information systems technology are essential tools for providing the basic as well as dynamic change detection information for environmental impact analysis necessary for any natural resources management and environment monitoring activities,

Realizing that a number of members and associate members of the Commission have already become involved in the application of remote sensing and geographic information systems technology for their natural resources surveys, environment monitoring and development planning, and many of them have invested an appreciable amount of resources to acquire the technology,

Recalling that regional coordination and collaboration in remote sensing applications and development through technical cooperation among developing countries have already been initiated by the Commission through its United Nations Development Programme-funded Regional Remote Sensing Programme and that an effective network of regional cooperation mechanisms for technology transfer and information exchange within this region has been established,

1. *Decides* to continue to promote and strengthen regional cooperation and collaboration in the area of satellite technology applications for sustainable natural resources and environment management;

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[8] See para. 513 above.

2. *Urges* the participating members and associate members of the Commission to continue their support to the network of regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms established under the Regional Remote Sensing Programme;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to incorporate remote sensing and geographic information systems applications as a regular programme activity, and also to mobilize extrabudgetary funds from the United Nations Development Programme and other donors to ensure quality planning and management of activities focusing on the multisectoral dimensions of space applications involving, *inter alia,* remote sensing and geographic information systems, natural resources management, natural disaster reduction, environmental monitoring and planning, technology, agriculture and human settlements.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/9. International cooperation on labour migration between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions[9]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that labour migration from the developing countries of the ESCAP region to other regions has provided many developing countries of the region with new employment opportunities and balance-of-payments support,

Appreciating the usefulness of the activities that the secretariat has carried out to assist countries in the region in their efforts to promote and regulate labour migration, and noting also the valuable work undertaken by the International Labour Organisation and other international agencies,

Aware of the mutually beneficial relationship that has developed between the labour-exporting developing countries of the ESCAP region and the labour-importing countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region,

Stressing the mutual benefits that can accrue to the labour-importing countries by helping them to overcome their critical labour shortages, and to the labour surplus countries by providing employment opportunities and remittances,

Concerned at the disruption that the Persian Gulf conflict has caused to labour migration between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions, and noting the opportunities available to countries in both regions, in the aftermath of that conflict, to revitalize the interregional labour migration process along lines more beneficial to development in both regions and more supportive of the social needs of migrating labourers and their families,

1. *Urges* the developing members and associate members of ESCAP to promote understanding and cooperation among themselves and between themselves and the countries in the ESCWA region concerning the interregional migration of workers, and make concerted efforts to resolve the problems that those workers face;

2. *Also urges* the international community to provide financial and technical assistance to the developing countries of the ESCAP region, particularly the least developed countries, which have been affected by the disruption caused to labour migration by the Persian Gulf conflict;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close consultation with the Executive Secretary of ESCWA:

(a) To undertake a thorough analysis of the demographic, economic and social policy issues involved in labour migration between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions with a view to identifying means to enhance the benefits to both the labour-exporting and labour-importing countries, specifically drawing upon earlier studies undertaken by ESCAP and the relevant international organizations in this area;

(b) To promote a dialogue between the countries concerned in the ESCAP and ESCWA regions on policy issues, with the objectives of maximizing the mutual benefits and minimizing the costs involved in the process of international labour migration;

(c) To report to the Commission at its forty-ninth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution;

4. *Invites* donor Governments and organizations to provide the necessary extrabudgetary resources to the secretariat for the implementation of this resolution.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/10. Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994[10]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984 proclaiming the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, and Commission resolution 236 (XL) of 27 April 1984 on the Decade,

Reaffirming the critical role of transport and communications in economic development and the importance, therefore, of the improvement and growth of transport and communications infrastructure and services in a manner commensurate with the anticipated growth of all sectors of the economy generating the demand for transport and communications,

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[9] See para. 542 above.

[10] See para. 644 above.

Recognizing the role of other United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and international organizations concerned with transport and communications in the formulation, planning and execution of projects within their mandate undertaken in conjunction with the Decade,

Also recognizing that the report of the mid-term review of the Decade confirms that the immediate objectives of the Decade remain fully valid at the mid-point of the Decade,

Noting with appreciation the support provided so far for the Decade's programmes by the members and associate members of ESCAP, as well as by the donor countries and agencies,

Also noting the recommendations contained in the report of the mid-term review of the Decade,

1. *Decides* that the programmes for the second quinquennium of the Decade should be redesigned and implemented in such a way as both to avoid the shortcomings identified during the first quinquennium and to take into account the anticipated development of the transport and communications sectors in the region over the remaining period of the Decade;

2. *Also decides* that the period of the second quinquennium of the Decade is to be modified to 1992-1996 to coincide with the period of the medium-term plan, 1992-1997, to enable adequate preparation to be made for the regional action programme;

3. *Invites* all members and associate members to participate actively in the implementation of the programmes for the Decade;

4. *Supports* the convening of a meeting of ministers responsible for transport and communications in 1992 to consider and recommend to the Commission the regional action programme for the remainder of the Decade;

5. *Invites* donor countries and agencies to provide the requisite funds to enable the Commission to implement a regional action programme for the Decade and its activities of greater impact in the field of transport and communications for the remainder of the Decade;

6. *Urges* the United Nations Development Programme to provide funds in particular from its Special Programme Resources for developing the regional action programme;

7. *Invites* all United Nations organizations and specialized agencies concerned with the development of transport and communications in the region to cooperate and coordinate their activities with the secretariat in the implementation of the programmes for the Decade, paying special attention to the particular transport and communications problems of the least developed, land-locked and Pacific island countries;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To take the lead role in the coordination, monitoring and reporting of the Decade as recommended in the report of the mid-term review;

(b) To develop a close link with the international financial institutions for the implementation of the regional action programme for the Decade;

(c) To encourage the active participation of existing subregional groupings of the region in formulating and implementing the Decade activities within their respective subregions in coordination with the secretariat;

(d) To associate national institutions concerned with transport and communications with the implementation of the Decade activities;

(e) To promote the active involvement of commercial sectors in the implementation of the Decade;

(f) To ensure adequate manpower resources to strengthen the capability of the secretariat to monitor, coordinate and report on the Decade, as well as to provide technical assistance;

(g) To report to the Commission at its annual sessions until the last year of the Decade on the implementation of the Decade;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake an evaluation of the Decade after its completion and to submit his report, with appropriate recommendations, to the Commission at its subsequent session;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-eighth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/11. Interregional cooperation in the area of trade facilitation [11]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Conscious of the importance of trade facilitation measures as a means of making international trade efficient and cost-effective, and of the developments in new technologies and their application in the conduct of international trade,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/118 on interregional cooperation for facilitation of international trade, in which the Council directed the regional commissions to formulate, jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a project proposal for interregional cooperation, including the detailing of the technical and resource requirements in the area of trade facilitation, and in particular the phased application of the Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) wherever appropriate,

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[11] See para. 467 above.

Noting that the Economic and Social Council, at its session in July 1990, adopted resolution 1990/74, supporting the implementation of the project proposal on interregional cooperation by the participating African countries and requesting other regional commissions to further consider Council resolution 1989/118,

Recalling the endorsement by the Commission, at its forty-sixth session, of the project concept and objectives for interregional cooperation in the area of trade facilitation, prepared in accordance with the directives contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/118,

Recognizing that the ESCAP regional trade facilitation network will soon be operative and that it will, *inter alia*, act as a focal point for trade facilitation efforts in the ESCAP region,

Conscious also of the fact that most of the developed and some developing economies in this region have either started or are endeavouring to adopt EDIFACT in the conduct of their international trade and that most of the developing economies still need urgent attention and assistance from the United Nations system in the rationalization of their trade documentation and procedures, and, thereafter, in taking appropriate steps towards the application of new technology in the transmission of trade documentation,

Also recognizing that the trade facilitation measures and electronic data interchange standards should be applied uniformly by all countries and that to this end the countries and areas of the ESCAP region need to cooperate effectively among themselves and with the rest of the world,

1. *Reiterates* its endorsement of the four components and eight objectives of the project proposal on interregional cooperation in the area of trade facilitation, set out in the document on interregional cooperation in trade submitted to the Commission at its forty-sixth session;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Economic and Social Council to endorse the present resolution and make appropriate recommendations for funding by donors;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme, and other multilateral and bilateral donors, to provide adequate resources to ensure the full realization of the project;

4. *Invites* all Members of the United Nations to support this project proposal;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to report to the Commission at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/12. Regional follow-up of the World Summit for Children[12]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 45/217 of 21 December 1990 on the World Summit for Children,

Welcoming the adoption by the World Summit for Children, on 30 September 1990, of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for its implementation in the 1990s,

Recalling its resolution 45/1 of 5 April 1989 on a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond,

Recalling also its resolutions 46/6, of 13 June 1990, on the integration of women in all aspects of development, 46/5, of 13 June 1990, on regional follow-up of the World Conference on Education for All - Meeting Basic Learning Needs, and 274 (XLIV), of 20 April 1988, on the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region,

Bearing in mind its decision to convene the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development at Manila in 1991 to consider and adopt a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond,

Also bearing in mind the importance of the World Declaration, as well as its relevance to a social development strategy for the ESCAP region,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members, and all concerned international bodies and agencies, to work for the achievement of the goals and objectives endorsed in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for its implementation, as an integral part of their national plans and international cooperation;

2. *Urges* all international development agencies, multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental, to assist the developing countries of the ESCAP region in the achievement of the goals and strategies enunciated in the World Declaration and Plan of Action;

3. *Notes with appreciation* that the United Nations Children's Fund intends to be represented at a high level and to cooperate in the preparations for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, including the submission of a background study on the special needs of children in the ESCAP region in the light of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that appropriate consideration is given by the Ministerial Conference, in its deliberations on a social

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[12] See para. 557 above.

development strategy for the ESCAP region, to the World Declaration and the Plan of Action;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in close collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, to ensure that the action taken by all members and associate members in response to the concerns for the survival, protection and development of children as enunciated in the World Declaration and Plan of Action are monitored as part of the implementation of a regional social development strategy.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/13. International Year of the Family[13]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989 proclaiming 1994 as International Year of the Family,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/133 of 14 December 1990, inviting all Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as interested national organizations, to exert all possible efforts in the preparation for and observance of the Year and to cooperate with the Secretary-General in achieving the objectives of the Year,

Further recalling Commission resolution 45/1 of 5 April 1989 on a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond, in which the Commission urged the Executive Secretary to incorporate in the strategy careful consideration of the family in development and of the pivotal role of that basic social institution,

Recognizing the importance of ensuring the realization within the family of the principles affirmed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989,

Reiterating the importance of the family as the basic social unit for socio-economic development and the need for all Governments to devise policies specifically in support of the attainment of national development objectives regarding the family,

Bearing in mind that the Year will offer a unique opportunity for mobilizing efforts, particularly at the local and national levels, to highlight the importance of the family, to promote a better understanding of its functions and role in development, and to strengthen national institutions to formulate, implement and monitor policies in respect of the family,

Recognizing that for the Year to be successful and for its impact and practical efficiency to be maximized, adequate preparation and region-wide support are required,

1. *Urges* all members and associate members to take prompt action to establish national coordinating mechanisms to prepare for, observe and follow up the Year of the Family, in particular for the purpose of planning, stimulating and harmonizing the activities of all governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations concerned with the preparation for and observance of the Year;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convene in 1993 a regional intergovernmental preparatory meeting of members and associate members of the Commission for the observance of the Year;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To initiate, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other concerned agencies, a series of country studies on the role of the family in development to provide a basis for formulating proposals for regional action on preparation for and observance of the Year;

(b) To liaise with the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna concerning regional preparations for observance and follow-up of the Year;

(c) To constitute an inter-agency committee consisting of representatives of the regional offices of all concerned United Nations bodies and agencies to coordinate their activities in preparation for and observance of the Year;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

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[13] See para. 574 above.

Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES, 1992-1993

Programme: 31. Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific

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Subprogramme 1: Agricultural and rural development

Orientation

As directed by the Commission, the major thrust of the subprogramme in the current biennium will be the alleviation of rural poverty through integrated rural development and interdivisional, inter-agency and multisectoral activities with the participation of other divisions/units and United Nations agencies. The subprogramme will concentrate on activities that support national poverty alleviation programmes, particularly in the least developed countries, and on issues which are critical for the realization of the above objective, such as increasing agricultural productivity, rural employment and income. There will be strong focus on amelioration of the socio-economic conditions of disadvantaged groups, such as small and marginal farmers, landless agricultural workers, rural artisans and women.

The main strategies for increasing productivity will be: (a) dissemination of analytical information relating to agricultural policies and related issues, in order to stimulate appropriate policy adjustments, (b) regional cooperation on critical farm inputs, including their management and logistics, and (c) the evolution of improved agricultural communication systems.

In pursuing the above objectives, emphasis will be placed on assisting the least developed countries of the region.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	144	24	2 210.0
1.1 ***Parliamentary services***	31	8	110.0
(i) Parliamentary documentation:			
(a) Report to the Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment on issues related to agricultural plans, strategies, rural development and poverty alleviation (1993)	4	2	-
(b) Reports to the Commission on issues related to agricultural plans and strategies, rural development and poverty alleviation (1992 and 1993)	8	2	-
(ii) Substantive services:			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (biennial, 1993)	7	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	10	-	-
(iii) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:			
(a) Expert group meeting on rural poverty alleviation and related issues; regional report on the state of rural poverty in Asia and the Pacific (1992)	2	4	-
(b) Expert group meeting for the establishment of a regional network for cooperation in agriculture and rural communication (1992)	-	-	110.0
1.2 ***Published material***	30	-	450.0
(i) Recurrent publications:			
(a) Inter-agency newsletter on rural poverty alleviation (biannual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
(b) Agricultural Information Development Bulletin (quarterly, 1992 and 1993)	-	-	20.0
(c) Regional Information Support Service on Agro-chemicals (monthly, 1992 and 1993)	-	-	-
(d) Agro-chemicals News in Brief (quarterly, 1992 and 1993)	8	-	50.0
(e) Fertilizer Trade Information Bulletin (monthly, 1992 and 1993)	-	-	-
(f) Fertilizer trade information through telexes and faxes (fortnightly, 1992 and 1993)	-	-	50.0
(g) Calendar of Meetings on Agro-chemicals (quarterly, 1992 and 1993)	-	-	8.0
(h) Regional Agro-pesticide Index (annual, 1992 and 1993)	-	-	20.0
(i) Training guidelines on farm broadcasting in national languages (biennial, 1992)[1]	-	-	14.0
(ii) Non-recurrent publications:			
(a) Training manual on satellite drought and flood early warning project (1993)	5	-	120.0
(b) Report on the regional satellite drought and flood early warning project (1993)	6	-	-
(c) Studies on agricultural strategy in least developed countries (1993)[2]	2	-	-
(d) Country studies on the supply, marketing, distribution and use of fertilizers (one in 1992, two in 1993)	-	-	50.0
(e) Study on the environmental aspects of fertilizers (1993)	-	-	10.0
(f) Case studies on successful agricultural development projects (1992 and 1993)	-	-	30.0
(g) Studies on a multimedia approach for diffusion of information on agricultural development methodologies (1992 and 1993)	-	-	15.0
(h) Training manual on farm broadcasting in national languages (1992 and 1993)	-	-	14.0
(i) Directory of fertilizer-related information (1993)	-	-	20.0
(j) Compendium of inter-agency work programmes on rural development (1993)	1	-	1.0
(k) Agro-pesticide safety and its impact on the environment (1993)	2	-	6.0

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[1] Indicating inputs to multidisciplinary subprogramme 5, Human resources development (5.2 (i)(b), 5.3 (g) and 5.3 (h)).

[2] Indicating inputs to multidisciplinary subprogramme 12, Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries (12.2 (ii)(d) and 12.3 (h)).

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
(iii) Technical material:			
(a) Illustrated safe handling and application of pesticides, flip charts in various languages (1992 and 1993)	2	-	8.0
(b) Computerized fertilizer database under the Network of Fertilizer Information Systems (1992 and 1993)	-	-	14.0
1.3 ***Operational activities***	62	16	1 650.0
(a) Advisory and information services on improvement of fertilizer production, marketing, distribution, use and human resources development[1]	8	-	100.0
(b) Promotion of fertilizers under various agro-climatic conditions	2	-	5.0
(c) Advisory services on computerized databases under the network of fertilizer and pesticide information systems	2	-	10.0
(d) Promotion of environmentally sound and safe management of fertilizer use (1992)	-	-	50.0
(e) Promotion of environmentally sound and safe management of pesticide use (1993)	6	-	30.0
(f) Advisory services for the establishment of a regional network for cooperation in agricultural and rural communication	-	-	45.0
(g) Advisory services to execute satellite crop monitoring through the regional satellite drought and flood early warning project	10	-	800.0
(h) Substantive support to the Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	4	-	-
(i) Regional seminar on satellite drought and flood early-warning system (1993)	7	-	200.0
(j) Seminar on agricultural strategies for the least developed countries (1992)[2]	4	-	-
(k) Seminars on strengthening national agricultural information networks (1992 and 1993)	-	-	60.0
(l) Seminar on the role of women in agricultural development (1992)[3]	5	-	50.0
(m) Training course on farm broadcasting (1992 and 1993)	-	-	20.0
(n) Seminar and training on the utilization of agricultural residues and other biomass as an energy source (1992)[1]	3	-	-
(o) Technical cooperation among developing countries in strengthening socio-economic development policies related to food and agriculture	1	-	-

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[3] Indicating inputs to multidisciplinary subprogramme 15, Women in development (15.3 (d) and 15.3 (e)).

		Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
		RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
		Existing	Additional	
(p)	Seminar/workshop on poverty alleviation with focus on a participatory approach to rural development (1993)	-	8	80.0
(q)	Action research on poverty alleviation with focus on employment generation among rural disadvantaged groups, including rural women[3]	4	8	80.0
(r)	Implementation of the Interagency Co-ordinated Plan of Action on Integrated Rural Development through studies, seminars and training	6	-	120.0
1.4	*Coordination, harmonization and liaison*	21	-	-
(a)	Substantive servicing of the United Nations Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific and its Task Force and liaison with the national liaison officers on integrated rural development	10	-	-
(b)	Support to the ACC (Administrative Committee on Co-ordination) Task Force on Rural Development and coordination with other relevant agencies, such as the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and with non-governmental organizations in poverty alleviation activities	10	-	-
(c)	Coordination with UNEP, FAO, WHO and UNIDO in carrying out operational activities related to fertilizers and agro-pesticides	1	-	-

Subprogramme 2: Development issues and policies

Orientation

In the medium-term plan for 1992-1997, it is noted that vast changes are occurring in the world economy and within the Asian and Pacific region itself. High on the list of priorities, therefore, is analysis of the nature of the challenges and opportunities that these changes portend, and review and assessment of the policies and strategies at the national, regional and global levels in response to them. In this context, a major effort will be made to provide assistance in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional cooperative measures to deal with the emerging issues and to analyse the implications of structural changes in the world economy and the increasingly complex nature of interdependence among nations.

Closely related to the above will be the follow-up activities recommended by the Commission at its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions in its deliberations on the theme topic of restructuring the developing ESCAP economies in the 1990s. Among these, special attention will be given to the socio-economic implications of adjustment policies and programmes and the prospects for sustainable development. It is further anticipated that by the biennium 1992-1993, considerable momentum should also have been gained with respect to studies focusing on the region's main economic and social concerns as part of ESCAP activities in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. The issues that will receive priority consideration will include those that may be considered as belonging to the unfinished agenda of development, such as poverty and income distribution, mobilization of domestic savings, investment efficiency and increased labour absorption, as well as those that may be considered as second-generation problems of development, such as the impact of advanced technology, human resources development, urbanization, financing of social services, changing patterns of comparative advantage and the role of the service sector.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	240	-	1 382.0
2.1 ***Parliamentary services***	30	-	-
(i) Parliamentary documentation:			
(a) Reports to the Commission on issues relating to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade in the ESCAP region (1992 and 1993)	6	-	-
(ii) Substantive services:			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics (biennial)	12	-	-
(iii) Ad hoc expert group and related preparatory work:			
(a) Expert group meeting on development issues and policies (fourth quarters, 1992 and 1993)	8	-	-
2.2 ***Published material***	138	-	842.0
(i) Recurrent publications:			
(a) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (annual, 1992 and 1993)	20	-	-
(b) Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (biannual, 1992 and 1993)	9	-	-
(c) Development Papers (second and fourth quarters, 1992 and 1993)	9	-	-

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) The year-end statement of the Executive Secretary on the economic performance and development prospects of the ESCAP region (1992 and 1993)	6	-	-
(b) Papers for presentation to international and regional meetings and seminars on specific aspects of current economic issues facing the region (1992, 1993)	6	-	-
(c) Review of progress in the performance of macro-economic policies on restructuring, stabilization and growth of developing economies of the ESCAP region (1992)	12	-	100.0
(d) Study and research on macro-economic policies for restructuring, stabilization and growth (1993)	12	-	100.0
(e) In-depth study on possibilities of increasing intraregional trade and complementarities among the economies of the ESCAP region (1992)	12	-	100.0
(f) Studies on prospects, priorities and policy options for regional economic cooperation in such fields as investment, development finance, trade, taxation, environment, technology transfer and infrastructure development (1992)	12	-	207.0
(g) Study on tax reforms for balanced achievement of the objectives of productivity, efficiency, incentives, compliance and equity (1992)	8	-	100.0
(h) Study on reforms and liberalization of the financial sector (1993)	8	-	100.0
(i) Study on emerging social security systems in the Asian and Pacific region (1992)	6	-	90.0
(j) Study on economic implications of global warming in the developing ESCAP region (1993)	6	-	15.0
(k) Study on women in development[1] (1992)	6	-	15.0
(l) Study on contribution of human resources development to economic growth[2] (1993)	6	-	15.0
2.3 *Operational activities*	68	-	540.0
(a) Seminar and advisory services to strengthen national capabilities in the formulation and implementation of macro-economic policies for restructuring, stabilization and growth	12	-	80.0
(b) Seminar and advisory services to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination of macro-economic policies and strategies	12	-	80.0

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[1] Representing input to multidisciplinary subprogramme 15, Women in development (15.2 (ii)(e)).

[2] Representing input to multidisciplinary subprogramme 5, Human resources development (5.2 (ii)(e)).

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	Additional	
(c) Training and seminars on fiscal and financial planning and management	6	-	80.0
(d) Seminar on enhancing national capabilities to take fuller account of the economic aspects of social and environmental development	8	-	100.0
(e) Development of a regional economic forecasting system	12	-	100.0
(f) Development of policy models for selected developing economies in Asia and the Pacific	12	-	100.0
(g) Improvement of capabilities of national planners in methods and techniques of development planning	6	-	-
2.4 *Coordination, harmonization and liaison*	4	-	-
(a) Substantive consultations with the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in undertaking several activities in the field of development issues and policies, particularly the annual Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific and activities related to work on economic modelling and projections	4	-	-

Subprogramme 3: Energy

Orientation

It is expected that with the completion of the programmed activities during the biennium 1992-1993, the secretariat will progress towards achieving its objective of assisting developing countries in strengthening their national capabilities in conducting and carrying out comprehensive energy development and management programmes. This will be achieved largely through operational activities (studies, surveys, information exchange, advisory services, group training). The objectives include fostering regional cooperation through the establishment of regional energy working groups in several energy areas to channel technical assistance, and TCDC/ECDC (technical and economic cooperation among developing countries) activities which will be developed in the future. The secretariat will continue to develop the energy database and to undertake studies on energy economics.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	**153**	**-**	**2 600.0**
3.1 ***Parliamentary services***	**59**	**-**	**-**
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on the energy scene: issues and policies (1993)	3	-	-
(b) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on prospects for efficient utilization and load management in electric power utilities in the ESCAP region (1993)	2	-	-
(c) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on the environmental impact of production, transmission and distribution of electricity (1993)	2	-	-
(d) Report to the Commission on the status and potential for energy conservation in small and medium-scale industries (1992)	2	-	-
(e) Reports to the Commission on the progress and functioning of the regional working groups on energy planning, energy conservation, natural gas, coal development, new and renewable sources of energy and electric power development (1992 and 1993)	14	-	-
(f) Report to the Commission on the follow-up study on nuclear penetration in the regional power sector to quantify the prospects for alleviation of climatic effects of fossil fuel consumption (1992)	4	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy (biennial, 1993)	4	-	-
(c) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on energy planning (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(d) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on natural gas (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(e) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on energy conservation (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-

		Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
		RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
		Existing	Additional	
	(f) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on coal development (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
	(g) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on rural energy planning and development (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
	(h) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on specific areas of new and renewable sources of energy (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
	(i) Substantive servicing of the regional working group on electric power development (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(iii)	*Ad hoc expert group and related preparatory work:*			
	(a) Ad hoc expert group meeting to assess the region's energy resilience (1993)	4	-	-
3.2	***Published material***	33	-	-
(i)	*Recurrent publications:*			
	(a) Energy Newsletter (quarterly, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
	(b) Energy Resources Development Series (biennial, 1993)	4	-	-
	(c) Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1989 and 1990 (biennial, 1992)	6	-	-
(ii)	*Non-recurrent publications:*			
	(a) Pacific oil policy issues (1992)	4	-	-
	(b) Compendium of case studies on environmentally sound oil and gas development and utilization (1993)	3	-	-
	(c) Trends and issues in the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy in the Asian and Pacific region (1993)	3	-	-
	(d) Economic load dispatch and load management technology in the Asian context (1993)	3	-	-
(iii)	*Technical material:*			
	(a) Sectoral energy demand database	6	-	-
3.3	***Operational activities***	58	-	2 600.0
	(a) Advisory services/group training on integrated energy planning with due consideration of environmental aspects	9	-	400.0
	(b) Advisory services/group training on energy conservation	9	-	250.0
	(c) Advisory services/group training on natural gas market development and efficient utilization of oil	9	-	250.0

		Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
		RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
		Existing	*Additional*	
	(d) Advisory services/group training on coal development, coal utilization and clean coal technology	**9**	**-**	**800.0**
	(e) Advisory services/group training on rural energy development	**9**	**-**	**400.0**
	(f) Advisory services/group training on optimum utilization and conservation of electricity	**9**	**-**	**400.0**
	(g) Special training courses in energy planning for least developed countries[1]	**4**	**-**	**100.0**
3.4	***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	**3**	**-**	**-**
	(a) Coordination through meeting with United Nations organizations on specific energy matters	**2**	**-**	**-**
	(b) Liaison with regional international organizations/agencies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency on electricity and nuclear power planning	**1**	**-**	**-**

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[1] **Indicating input to multidisciplinary subprogramme 12, Special programmes for least developed, land-locked and island developing countries (12.3 (j)).**

Subprogramme 4: Environment

Orientation

There is a growing awareness throughout the Asian and Pacific region that serious threats to the environment are being imposed by unsustainable and unbalanced development activities. Such threats include rapid land degradation through desertification, deforestation, soil erosion and loss of productivity; unhealthy village and urban environment; and the pollution of air, lakes, rivers and seas, thus affecting severely the earth's life support system while causing climate change and loss of biological diversity. Environmental degradation endangers all species and undermines the well-being of all of the people of this vast region. With a view to addressing these problems, the focus for the biennium 1992-1993, in conformity with the structure of the medium-term plan for 1992-1997, will be on: (1) environmental awareness; (2) greening the development process: integration of environment and development; (3) management of the terrestrial ecosystem; and (4) protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems.

Regional cooperation is considered the key to the implementation of this subprogramme, for which existing networks of regional institutions such as the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP) and the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists need to be strengthened and further cooperation should be promoted through the establishment of an additional network of economic and environmental policy research institutions further to promote the concept and practice of environmentally sound and sustainable development in the region. Training and technical assistance are essential parts of the programme to strengthen the capabilities of national institutions dealing with the planning and implementation of programmes and projects on environmental resources. Methodologies and tools for monitoring and assessment of the environment and its integration into national planning are given priority.

The Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in October 1990, made an assessment of the regional state of the environment and possible measures to counter the rapid environmental degradation. As the reversal of present environmental trends requires commitment and action at national, regional and international levels, there has to be a joint effort linking the activities through a global process yet to be defined by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992, the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development and national programmes. Finally, a mechanism for regional inter-agency cooperation and coordination of the environment and development activities will also be established during the biennium.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	96	48	3 500.0
4.1 ***Parliamentary services***	8	2	-
(i) Parliamentary documentation:			
(a) Report to the Commission on the progress of implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (1993)	2	-	-
(b) Reports to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of the findings and recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development (1992 and 1993)[1]	2	-	-
(ii) Substantive services:			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	2	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (biennial, 1993)	2	-	-

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[1] Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/187.

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	Additional	
4.2 ***Published material***	28.5	8	640.0
(i) Recurrent publications:			
(a) ESCAP Environment News (quarterly, 1992 and 1993)	3	-	-
(b) Environmental news briefing - A selection from the region's press (monthly, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	20.0
(ii) Non-recurrent publications:			
(a) Reference book on environment in Asia and the Pacific (fourth quarter, 1992)	-	2.5	65.0
(b) Guidebook on environmental reporting (1992)	-	2.5	40.0
(c) Citizens' reports on the state of the environment (1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(d) Manual on environmental accounting (1993) [2]	2.5	-	-
(e) Case studies on the principles and methodologies of environmentally sound and sustainable development (1992)	3	-	40.0
(f) Code of conduct on environmental protection (country-specific) (1992 and 1993)	2	-	85.0
(g) Methodology for the integration of environmental considerations into national planning (1992)	-	3	70.0
(h) Guidelines on the development of environmental pollution control legislation (1993)	2	-	75.0
(i) Guidelines on environmental pollution monitoring systems (1993) [2]	2	-	100.0
(j) Manual on the promotion of environmental technology and prevention of chemical accidents (1992) [2]	2	-	65.0
(k) Manual on the development and implementation of coastal environmental management plans (1992)	2	-	40.0
(l) Country-specific environmental management plans (1992 and 1993)	4	-	40.0
4.3 ***Operational activities***	58.5	38	2 860.0
(a) Environmental management in Asia and the Pacific through the promotion of environmental awareness	-	4	210.0
(b) Development and updating of the report on the state of the environment	6	-	210.0
(c) Two regional meetings on a code of environmental conduct (1992)	-	5	125.0

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[2] Indicating inputs to multidisciplinary subprogramme 5, Human resources development (5.2 (ii)(g), 5.2 (ii)(h), 5.2 (ii)(i), 5.3 (j) and 5.3 (k)).

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	Additional	
(d) Substantive support to the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists and the environmental non-governmental organizations	2	-	145.0
(e) Promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	3	6	865.0
(f) Regional follow-up of the findings and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific	2	6	145.0
(g) Promotion of environmental management tools, such as environmental risk management, environmental impact assessment, and development of a database	3	-	85.0
(h) Strengthening of national capabilities for incorporating environmental considerations in sectoral development policies [2]	3.5	-	85.0
(i) Promotion of environmentally sound technologies in Asia and the Pacific	6	-	40.0
(j) Establishment and servicing of a regional network of economic and environmental policy research institutions	-	2.5	40.0
(k) Strengthening of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific	4.5	-	170.0
(l) Strengthening, conservation and management of critical ecosystems	3	5	170.0
(m) Promotion of desertification control technology	8	-	75.0
(n) Mapping, monitoring and assessment of desertification, and training in desertification control and soil degradation	8	-	80.0
(o) Promotion of environmental resources enhancement for rural areas	-	3	80.0
(p) Strengthening of national capabilities in protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems [2]	3.5	4	125.0
(q) Support to the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme	3	-	75.0
(r) Protection of coastal areas in South Asian seas and development of an action plan for those areas	2	-	75.0
(s) Monitoring of the illegal transboundary movement of toxic and dangerous products and wastes	1	2.5	60.0
4.4 ***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	1	-	-
(a) Coordination with UNDP, UNEP, ADB (Asian Development Bank), World Bank, non-governmental organizations and the media through meetings in order to implement various environment-related projects	1	-	-

Subprogramme 5: Human resources development

Orientation

The main thrust of this new multidisciplinary subprogramme for the biennium 1992-1993 will be to assist Governments in devising a suitable policy framework and strengthening institutional mechanisms for a coordinated approach to human resources development policy, planning and programming. Activities will focus on the promotion and monitoring of the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region. The regional network of national focal points for human resources development will be activated, and a regional information networking system for human resources development will be established. Studies will be conducted on various aspects of human resources development and their implications for intersectoral policy-making, planning and programming for human resources development. Training programmes will be conducted to upgrade the calibre of the region's human resources in specific development sectors.

Activities to be undertaken in 1992-1993 in the following other subprogrammes are directly relevant to the multidisciplinary subprogramme on human resources development and are therefore cross-listed in brackets in this subprogramme: 1, Agriculture and rural development; 2, Development issues and policies; 4, Environment; 6, Human settlements; 7, Industrial and technological development; 8, International trade and development finance; 9, Natural resources (including marine affairs); 11, Social development; 13, Statistics; and 14, Transport and communications. Furthermore, all the activities in subprogramme 11, Social development are implicitly relevant to the orientation of this subprogramme; that subprogramme should therefore be considered as complementary to this one.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	12	24	500.0
5.1 ***Parliamentary services***	4	5	-
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Report to the Commission on the status of national focal points for human resources development in the ESCAP region (1992)	1	1	-
(b) Report to the Commission on the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (1993)	1	1	-
(c) [Report to the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications on major problems in human resources development in land transport][1]	[5]	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	1	1	-
(b) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting of ESCAP national focal points for human resources development (first quarter, 1992)	1	2	-
(iii) *Ad hoc expert group and related preparatory work:*			
(a) [Expert group meeting on human resources development in the tourism sector][2]	[2]	-	-

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[1] Indicating activity to be implemented under subprogramme 14, Transport and communications (14.1 (i)(g)) as input into multidisciplinary subprogramme 5.

[2] Indicating activities to be implemented under subprogramme 8, International trade and development finance (8.1 (iii)(c), 8.3 (p) and 8.3 (v)) as inputs into multidisciplinary subprogramme 5.

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	Additional	
5.2 *Published material*	4	6	-
(i) *Recurrent publications:*			
(a) ESCAP HRD Newsletter (biannual, 1992 and 1993)	2	3	-
(b) [Training guidelines on farm broadcasting in national languages (1992)][3]	-	-	[14.0]
(ii) *Non-recurrent publications:*			
(a) Guidelines on promoting public awareness of human resources development (1992)	1	1	-
(b) Survey of intersectoral coordination of human resources development by Governments in the ESCAP region (1993)	1	2	-
(c) [Survey of the quality of life in the ESCAP region (1993)][4]	[8]	-	[160.0]
(d) [Guidelines for collecting, analysing and disseminating statistics and indicators on human resources development (1993)][5]	[2]	-	-
(e) [Study on the contribution of human resources development to economic growth (1993)][6]	-	[6]	[15.0]
(f) [Human resources requirements and skills promotion for structural transformation in industry (1993)][7]	[2.5]	-	[90.0]
(g) [Manual on environmental accounting (1993)][8]	[2.5]	-	-
(h) [Guidelines on an environmental pollution monitoring system (1993)][8]	[2]	-	[100.0]
(i) [Manual on promotion of environmental technology and prevention of chemical accidents (1992)][8]	[2]	-	[40.0]
5.3 *Operational activities*	4	7	500.0
(a) Advisory services to Governments on human resources development planning and programming in support of the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action	2	4	-

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[3] Indicating activities to be implemented under subprogramme 1, Agricultural and rural development (1.2 (i)(i), 1.3 (a) and 1.3 (n)) as inputs into multidisciplinary subprogramme 5.

[4] Indicating activities to be implemented under subprogramme 11, Social development (11.2 (ii)(g) and 11.3 (h)) as inputs into multidisciplinary subprogramme 5.

[5] Indicating activity to be implemented under subprogramme 13, Statistics (13.2 (ii)(b)) as input into multidisciplinary subprogramme 5.

[6] Indicating activity to be implemented under subprogramme 2, Development issues and policies (2.2 (ii)(l)) as input into multidisciplinary subprogramme 5.

[7] Indicating activity to be implemented under subprogramme 7, Industrial and technological development (7.2 (ii)(j)) as input into multidisciplinary subprogramme 5.

[8] Indicating activities to be implemented under subprogramme 4, Environment (4.2 (ii)(d), 4.2 (ii)(i), 4.2 (ii)(j), 4.3 (h) and 4.3 (p)) as inputs into multidisciplinary subprogramme 5.

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	Additional	
(b) Support to Governments for enhancing national human resources development policies and programmes and strengthening the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development	2	3	500.0
(c) [Support to Governments for strengthening national training programmes to mobilize youth in development, including the promotion of functional literacy] [4]	[5]	-	[110.0]
(d) [Advisory services/group training on development of human resources in the field of trade] [2]	[24]	-	[120.0]
(e) [Advisory services/seminars/meeting on strengthening and promotion of regional cooperation in human resources development in the tourism sector] [2]	[5]	-	[140.0]
(f) [Advisory services/group training on promotion of exchange of information and expertise among the participating institutes in the regional network for training in water resources development (phase III)] [9]	[6]	-	[40.0]
(g) [Advisory and information services on improvement of fertilizer production, marketing, distribution and use, and human resources development] [3]	[8]	-	[100.0]
(h) [Seminar and training on the utilization of agricultural residues as an energy source (1992)] [3]	[3]	-	-
(i) [Training workshop on human resources development for promoting sound and sustainable urbanization strategies] [10]	[3]	-	[50.0]
(j) [Strengthening of national capabilities for incorporating environmental considerations in sectoral development policies] [8]	[3.5]	-	[85.0]
(k) [Strengthening of the national capabilities in protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems] [8]	[3.5]	-	[125.0]
5.4 *Coordination, harmonization and liaison*	-	6	-
(a) Coordination through inter-agency meetings and consultations with concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on regional implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region	-	2	-
(b) Liaison through consultations with non-governmental organizations on regional implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action	-	2	-
(c) Coordination, through meetings and consultations with concerned ESCAP divisions/units, on intersectoral programme planning and implementation in the field of human resources development	-	2	-

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[9] Indicating activity to be implemented under subprogramme 9, Natural resources (9.3 (h)) as input into multidisciplinary subprogramme 5.

[10] Indicating activity to be implemented under subprogramme 6, Human settlements (6.3 (j)) as input into multidisciplinary subprogramme 5.

Subprogramme 6: Human settlements

Orientation

Within the context of the objectives of the medium-term plan for 1992-1997, the ESCAP programme of work in the field of human settlements for 1992-1993 fully reflects the concern of the member countries with the problem of rapid urbanization and environmentally sound urban development. Commensurate resources, therefore, have been allocated for the preparation of the following documentation for the regional conference on urbanization in 1992: the report on the state of urbanization in the region, a regional plan of action to tackle problems of rapid urban growth, and a framework for the formulation of national strategies to deal with the problems and potential of urbanization.

This does not mean, however, that other programme elements have lost importance. The secretariat will continue to deal with important components of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, such as assistance in the formulation of national shelter strategies, the promotion of housing finance for low-income households, improved land management, and settlements planning. One of the main means of achieving these objectives will be by strengthening the capabilities of local authorities and communities through human resources development and advisory services. Other activities will include promotion of employment generation in the building materials and construction industries and in the informal sector. Promotion of regional cooperation and sharing of experience among training and research institutes, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and the media, including the establishment of the Asian and Pacific urban forum, will be emphasized. The activities of CITYNET (Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements) and other networks of local authorities and non-governmental organizations will continue to receive support.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	72	24	750.0
6.1 ***Parliamentary services***	26	15	250.0
(i) Parliamentary documentation:			
(a) Report to the Commission on national strategies for shelter to the year 2000 (1992)	4	-	-
(b) Reports to the regional conference on the state of urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, and on a regional action plan and framework for the formulation of national action plans on urbanization (1992)	6	6	50.0
(ii) Substantive services:			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the regional conference on urbanization (fourth quarter, 1992)	5	4	200.0
(c) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Industry, Technology and Human Settlements (biennial, 1993)	2	2	-
(iii) Ad hoc expert group and other preparatory work:			
(a) Pre-conference expert group meeting on urbanization (1992)	7	3	-
6.2 ***Published material***	19	4	120.0
(i) Non-recurrent publications:			
(a) The state of urbanization in Asia and the Pacific (1992)	1	2	20.0

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	Additional	
(b) Regional action plan and framework for the formulation of national action plans on urbanization (1992)	1	1	10.0
(c) Guidelines on the environmentally sound and sustainable development of urban areas (1993)	3	1	15.0
(d) Training modules on subnational planning for the development of secondary cities (1993)	4	-	25.0
(e) Directory of non-governmental and community-based organizations active in human settlements (1992)	4	-	20.0
(f) Information kit on shelter and settlements issues and approaches (1993)	6	-	30.0
6.3 *Operational activities*	25	5	380.0
(a) Advisory services for the introduction of environmental impact assessment in urban development planning and management	1	1	30.0
(b) Advisory services for the establishment of a network of institutes conducting training and research on human settlements issues, and of an Asian and Pacific urban forum, involving policy makers, representatives of cities, non-governmental organizations and the media, international organizations and national institutions dealing with urbanization and shelter issues	2	2	30.0
(c) Advisory services for employment generation in the construction and building materials industries through the promotion of component building in the informal sector	3	-	40.0
(d) Promotion of innovative community-based housing finance and credit systems targeted to low-income households through advisory services	2	-	50.0
(e) Advisory services on improvement of low-income settlements through the participatory approach	2	-	40.0
(f) Support to activities of the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET), in research, training and regional exchange of experience	4	-	30.0
(g) Advisory services for strengthening the role of women in community organizations for settlements improvement [1]	2	-	30.0
(h) Promotion of formulation of urbanization policies and shelter strategies, and creation of awareness through advisory services	1	2	20.0
(i) Subregional training workshop on land management for urban development in Pacific island countries	5	-	60.0
(j) Training workshop on human resources development for promoting sound and sustainable urbanization strategies [2]	3	-	50.0

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[1] Indicating input to multidisciplinary subprogramme 15, Women in development (15.3 (h)).

[2] Indicating input to multidisciplinary subprogramme 5, Human resources development (5.3 (i)).

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	Additional	
Coordination, harmonization and liaison	2	-	-
(a) Coordination with UNCHS, UNCRD (United Nations Centre for Regional Development) and UNIDO in the implementation of envisaged outputs/activities	2	-	-

Subprogramme 7: Industrial and technological development

Orientation

As concern regarding unemployment, poverty alleviation, urban congestion, the energy crisis and environmental degradation reaches unprecedented levels, industrial and technological development emerges as the key policy variable in ensuring growth with equity and sustainability in the Asian and Pacific region. The general trend of decreasing commodity prices and the inability of the agriculture sector to provide employment to the region's fast-growing population, coupled with problems in arresting environmental degradation, further reinforce the role of industrial and technological development as a crucial element in any development strategy. Furthermore, the fast pace of technological change and the increasing application of new and emerging technologies have resulted in altering the production processes in all sectors, especially in industrial activities, which requires reorientation of the assistance programmes administered by international organizations. Therefore, the ESCAP study on industrial restructuring, which was considered and finalized by the Commission at its forty-seventh session held at Seoul, is most timely and appropriate and will continue to serve as a basis for further industrial and technological development in the Asian and Pacific region.

The programme of work in the field of industrial and technological development for the biennium 1992-1993 has been prepared taking into account the above facts as well as the primary objectives as set out in the draft medium-term plan for 1992-1997. The programme of work reflects the priority areas of four thematic subjects of the draft medium-term plan and the specific needs and priorities as expressed by member States at recent sessions of the Commission and of the Committee on Industry, Technology and Human Settlements. The programme is developed, furthermore, to strengthen the interdisciplinary content, resource optimization and assistance to the relatively disadvantaged groups of economies such as the least developed and island developing economies of the region. It also takes due note of the prospects for the increased involvement of women in industrial and technological development and incorporates programme elements to promote such activities.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	288	-	2 950.0
7.1 ***Parliamentary services***	59	-	180.0
(i) Parliamentary documentation:			
(a) Report to the Commission on follow-up activities on its theme topic, "Industrial restructuring in Asia and the Pacific in particular with a view to strengthening regional cooperation" (1993)	6	-	-
(ii) Substantive services:			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	3	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology (first quarter, 1992)	12	-	110.0
(c) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Industry, Technology and Human Settlements (biennial, 1993)	10	-	-
(iii) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:			
(a) Expert group meeting on strategies for information and technology-led development (1993)	8	-	35.0
(b) Expert group meeting on patent laws, regulations and organizational structure in the ESCAP region (1992)	8	-	-
(c) Expert group meeting on improvement of efficiency in public sector industries, including privatization measures (1993)	6	-	-
(d) Expert group meeting on upgrading the technology of agro-based industries and small and medium-scale industries (1992)	6	-	35.0

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	Additional	
7.2 *Published material*	71.5	-	725.0
(i) Recurrent publications:			
(a) Industrial Development News for Asia and the Pacific (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(b) Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(ii) Non-recurrent publications:			
(a) Regional plan of action on technology-led industrial development in the Asian and Pacific region (1992)	5	-	45.0
(b) Regional review and assessment of industrial progress, manufacturing diversification and improved competitiveness (1992 and 1993)	6	-	35.0
(c) Strategies for the technological transformation of selected Asian and Pacific economies through regional cooperation (1992 and 1993)	3.5	-	-
(d) Guidelines for infrastructure development and institutional/policy reforms for the industrialization of least developed and island developing economies of the region (1993)[1]	6	-	155.0
(e) Strengthening agro-industry linkages for the promotion of agro-based industries to alleviate poverty and of the rural-urban balance of industrial activities (1992)	6	-	45.0
(f) Technology transfer and entrepreneurship development (1993)	6	-	35.0
(g) Promotion and transfer of environmentally benign and clean industrial technologies (1992)	4.5	-	90.0
(h) Patent laws, regulations and organizational structure in Asian and Pacific countries (1993)	3.5	-	-
(i) Energy conservation and industrial development (1993)	4	-	50.0
(j) Human resources requirements and skills promotion for structural transformation in industry (1993)[2]	2.5	-	90.0
(k) Promotion of women's participation in industrial and technological development (1992 and 1993)[3]	2.5	-	90.0
(l) Promotion of regional cooperation in trade and investment for diversification and improvement of competitiveness of manufacturing activities (1993)	8	-	45.0
(m) Prospects for economic and technical cooperation in standardization, quality control and testing facilities (1992)	6	-	45.0

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[1] Indicating inputs to multidisciplinary subprogramme 12, Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries (12.2 (ii)(g) and 12.3 (l)).

[2] Indicating input to multidisciplinary subprogramme 5, Human resources development (5.2 (ii)(f)).

[3] Indicating inputs to multidisciplinary subprogramme 15, Women in development (15.2 (ii)(f) and 15.3 (g)).

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	Additional	
7.3 *Operational activities*	157.5	-	2 045.0
(a) Advisory missions on institutional/policy reforms for industrial development	6	-	230.0
(b) Advisory missions on strengthening capabilities for endogenous technological development and technology transfer and negotiating techniques	15	-	230.0
(c) Advisory missions on technical skills development in least developed and island developing economies	8	-	70.0
(d) Promotion of enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation and joint ventures through advisory missions	11	-	90.0
(e) Support to Governments for the technological transformation of small and medium-scale industries through technology blending	10	-	180.0
(f) Support to Governments for the strengthening of national efforts to enhance technological support services, particularly engineering consultancy services and standardization and related activities	8	-	90.0
(g) Promotion and transfer of energy-efficient and environmentally benign technology for industrial development	15	-	400.0
(h) Assessment, selection and management of new and emerging technologies for development	15	-	75.0
(i) Substantive backstopping for the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RNAM)	15	-	45.0
(j) Women's involvement in industry and technology [3]	15	-	180.0
(k) Human resources requirements for industrial restructuring in least developed and island developing countries [1]	15	-	230.0
(l) Exchange visits of technical personnel for the promotion of ECDC/TCDC in selected areas of new and emerging technologies	12.5	-	135.0
(m) Investment promotion meeting	12	-	90.0

Subprogramme 8: International trade and development finance

Orientation

The lack of success of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations would ominously signal a difficult trade environment ahead, particularly for developing countries. A trend towards protecting national interests through a proliferation of discriminatory trade alliances and regional groupings and the raising of barriers against competitive exporters is already discernible in the emerging trade environment. Increasing competition from the new and emerging industrializing economies, particularly in the area of export of manufactures in the moderate technology sector, on the one hand, and from low-income developing countries with labour-intensive products on the other, has led many countries to heighten their trade barriers against the exports of their competitors. Expansion of international trade through the maintenance of free and open markets and the enhancement of value addition in exports will be a key instrument for the growth of both the export-led economies and other national economies of the region in order to accelerate the momentum of economic development.

The priorities in the area of international trade and development finance, as well as tourism, are set out in the medium-term plan for 1992-1997. The work programme is broadly divided into four major groups: trade and monetary cooperation, trade in commodities and manufactures, trade promotion and trade support services, and development of tourism.

Priority attention will be given to the expansion of value-added trade and to supporting national and collective efforts through research, technical cooperation and advisory missions. The potential for trade expansion in manufactures will be evaluated in order to undertake an assessment of investment opportunities and the promotion of joint ventures through analytical studies and the provision of technical cooperation.

In order to promote regional cooperation in trade, existing regional mechanisms, including the Bangkok Agreement, the Asian Clearing Union and the Asian Reinsurance Corporation, will be strengthened as will the links between economic groupings in the region and cooperation among the region's chambers of commerce and industry, and entrepreneurs.

In the field of tourism, activities will be undertaken to improve policies for tourism development on the basis of an appraisal of the economic impact of tourism, as well as for the development of human resources and for minimizing the adverse impact of tourism on the social and physical environment.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	336	-	3 100.0
8.1 ***Parliamentary services***	43	-	70.0
(i) Parliamentary documentation:			
(a) Report to the Commission on developments in trade and trade policies: issues and problems (annual, 1992 and 1993)	8	-	-
(ii) Substantive services:			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Trade (biennial, 1992)	4	-	-
(c) Substantive servicing of the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement (2 or 3 sessions in 1992-1993)	6	-	-
(d) Substantive servicing of the Special Body on Land-locked Countries (1992)	2	-	-
(e) Substantive servicing of the Regional Consultative Group on Silk (1992)	2	-	-
(f) Substantive servicing of the Government Consultation among Jute Producing Countries (1992)	2	-	-

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
(g) Substantive servicing of the Intergovernmental Consultative Forum of Developing Tropical Timber Producing/Exporting Countries (1993)	2	-	-
(h) Substantive servicing of the meeting of directors of national trade development and promotion agencies (1993)	4	-	-
(i) Substantive servicing of the meeting of the ESCAP network on trade facilitation (1993)	2	-	-
(j) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting on tourism development (1993)	2	-	-
(iii) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:			
(a) Expert group meeting on the development of regional economic cooperation through trade and investment (1993)	1	-	-
(b) Expert group meeting on the establishment of a South Pacific subregional network on trade facilitation (1992)	2	-	70.0
(c) Expert group meeting on human resources development in the tourism sector (1992)[1]	2	-	-
8.2 ***Published material***	70	-	214.0
(i) Recurrent publications:			
(a) TISNET Trade Information Sheet (fortnightly, 23 issues per year, 1992 and 1993)	10	-	-
(b) Prices of Selected Asia/Pacific Products (monthly, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(c) Trade information sources data bank (bimonthly, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(d) Trade information sources data bank annual cumulative index (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(e) Trade information sources directory (quarterly, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(f) TIS QUICK (15-18 issues per year, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(g) Directory of Trade Promotion/Development Organizations of Developing Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific, sixth edition (biennial, 1993)	4	-	-
(h) ESCAP Tourism Review (1992 and 1993)	1	-	-
(i) ESCAP Tourism Review Newsletter (semi-annual, 1992 and 1993)	1	-	6.0
(ii) Non-recurrent publications:			
(a) Regional trade review (1992)	1	-	-

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[1] Indicating inputs to multidisciplinary subprogramme 5, Human resources development (5.1 (iii)(a), 5.3 (d) and 5.3 (e)).

		Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
		RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
		Existing	*Additional*	
	(b) Analytical studies on current issues and problems faced by jute, silk and tropical timber industries in the region (1992 and 1993)	3	-	-
	(c) Technical studies on improvement of the production, processing and marketing of silk and tropical timber (1992 and 1993)	2	-	50.0
	(d) Technical studies on the development of other commodities of socio-economic importance to the region (1992)	2	-	22.0
	(e) Technical studies for the development of intraregional trade in the mineral sector (1992)	1	-	22.0
	(f) Trade profiles (1993)	6	-	-
	(g) Market guidebook and traders' manual (1992 and 1993)	6	-	70.0
	(h) Market profiles of selected products/commodities (1992 and 1993)	8	-	-
	(i) Studies on the socio-economic and environmental aspects of tourism, tourism marketing and investment, and other tourism development issues, with special reference to the problems faced by member countries (1992 and 1993)	1	-	20.0
	(j) Studies on foreign investment incentive schemes (1992 and 1993)	4	-	24.0
8.3	*Operational activities*	204	-	2 816.0
	(a) Advisory services/training for the restructuring of the trade sector of developing countries in order to enhance their national capabilities	8	-	50.0
	(b) Advisory services/training on issues of interest to developing countries after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations	8	-	50.0
	(c) Advisory services/training for expansion of trade through special trading arrangements, including the Bangkok Agreement	15	-	80.0
	(d) Advisory services/training for the development and effective utilization of financial institutions and support services for expansion of trade and investment	9	-	115.0
	(e) Advisory services/training for strengthening the role of the Asian Clearing Union and the Asian Reinsurance Corporation	5	-	70.0
	(f) Advisory services/training for the expansion of trade in manufactures through industrial and trade integration in the region by promoting joint ventures, trade-related investments and technology transfer	16	-	326.0
	(g) National workshops on the promotion of intraregional trade, investment and transfer of technology	6	-	-
	(h) Training workshops/seminars to strengthen a multidisciplinary regional cooperative programme for improvement of the production, processing, marketing and research and development of jute, silk and tropical timber	10	-	160.0

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
(i) Expert group meetings/training workshops to promote a multidisciplinary cooperative programme for the development of other commodities of socio-economic importance to the region	7	-	120.0
(j) Training workshops/seminars on intraregional trade expansion in the agriculture sector	8	-	180.0
(k) Training workshops/seminars for the development of intraregional trade in the mineral sector	7	-	240.0
(l) Advisory services/meetings on the promotion of trade at the enterprise level through, *inter alia*, cooperation among trade-related organizations such as chambers of commerce and business organizations	8	-	75.0
(m) Workshops on the promotion of trade of developing countries by means of product diversification in the markets of the ESCAP region	8	-	95.0
(n) Advisory services and trade fairs on expansion of exports of developing countries	10	-	85.0
(o) Workshops on export promotion in least developed, land-locked and island developing countries [2]	13	-	120.0
(p) Advisory services/training on the development of human resources in the field of trade [1]	24	-	120.0
(q) Advisory services to countries on the formulation and application of trade facilitation measures, including assistance in understanding and applying electronic data interchange in trade and customs	6	-	-
(r) Seminars/workshops on devising and applying trade and customs facilitation measures and electronic data interchange in trade and customs	8	-	85.0
(s) Seminars/workshops on the uniform application of trade and customs facilitation measures	4	-	120.0
(t) Advisory services/seminars/meetings on the strengthening of national capabilities in tourism development planning	6	-	160.0
(u) Advisory services/seminars/meetings on the strengthening of national capabilities to expand tourism markets and tourism-related foreign investment	4	-	160.0
(v) Advisory services/seminars/meetings on strengthening and promotion of regional cooperation in human resources development in the tourism sector [1]	5	-	140.0
(w) Advisory services/training for effective utilization of the Regional Trade Information Network (TISNET) through development of common computerized databases for exchange and dissemination of information	1	-	120.0
(x) Training/advisory services to strengthen national trade/commodity information centres, with particular reference to utilization of modern information technology	4	-	145.0
(y) Provision of ad hoc technical information services in response to requests from public and private sector organizations	4	-	-

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[2] Indicating input to multidisciplinary subprogramme 12, Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries (12.3 (g)).

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	Additional	
8.4 ***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	19	-	-
(a) Consultations with the Asian Clearing Union, the Asian Reinsurance Corporation and member Governments on the enlargement of membership and the expansion of functions	5	-	-
(b) Coordination with UNCTAD, FAO, ITC, UNIDO, ADB (Asian Development Bank), Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, International Jute Organization, International Natural Rubber Organization, International Pepper Community and International Tropical Timber Organization on matters related to the development of the commodity sector	3	-	-
(c) Consultations with UNCTAD, ITC, GATT and member Governments to promote coordination and implementation of trade activities in the region	7	-	-
(d) Coordination in trade and customs activities with UNCTAD under its Special Programme on Trade Facilitation, as well as with the Customs Co-operation Council	1	-	-
(e) Coordination with UNCTAD in the execution of trade facilitation activities in the region	1	-	-
(f) Coordination with ILO and the World Tourism Organization on matters related to the development of tourism	2	-	-

Subprogramme 9: Natural resources

Orientation

It is expected that with the completion of the programmed activities during the biennium 1992-1993, the secretariat will progress towards its objective of assisting the developing economies in strengthening national capabilities in: (a) implementing an integrated and comprehensive mineral resources exploration and development programme, and addressing the need for appraisal of the use of geology in planning fast-growing cities and of the future use of national lands; (b) formulating and implementing plans and programmes for the proper assessment, development, efficient use and management of water resources, and prevention of damage caused by water-related natural disasters; (c) improving the planning, management and decision-making process in the use of new remote sensing and geographic information system technologies for formulating and implementing sustained natural resources and environmental management programmes; and (d) planning, developing and managing the marine resources under national jurisdiction and implementing an integrated marine policy by exercising the rights and fulfilling the obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	303	24	2 200.0
9.1 *Parliamentary services*	51	9.5	52.0
(i) *Parliamentary documentation:*			
(a) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on the status of implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (1993)	8	-	-
(b) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on the progress in implementation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in the region (1993)	6	-	-
(c) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on the promotion and coordination of applications of remote sensing and geographic information systems technologies for sustainable natural and environmental development (1993)	-	2.5	-
(d) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on the progress made by the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP), the South Pacific Applied Geo-science Commission (SOPAC) and the Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Co-operation (IOMAC) (1993)	12	-	-
(ii) *Substantive services:*			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy (1993)	8	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	3	-	-
(iii) *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:*			
(a) Expert group meetings on Quaternary correlation in Asia and the Pacific (1992 and 1993)	8	-	12.0
(b) Regional seminar on water management in urban areas (1992)	6	-	-
(c) Expert group meetings on remote sensing for sustainable natural resources and environment management (1992 and 1993)	-	7.0	40.0

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	Additional	
9.2 ***Published material***	138	10	79.0
(i) Recurrent publications:			
(a) Atlas of Stratigraphy (annual, 1992 and 1993)	12	-	-
(b) Atlas of Mineral Resources (annual, 1992 and 1993)	12	-	-
(c) Urban geology monographs (annual, 1992 and 1993)	8	-	-
(d) Mineral development news in the ESCAP region (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(e) Quaternary of Asia and the Pacific (semi-annual, 1992 and 1993)	6	-	-
(f) Water Resources Journal (quarterly, 1992 and 1993)	6	-	-
(g) Confluence (semi-annual, 1992 and 1993)	6	-	-
(h) Remote Sensing Newsletter (quarterly, 1992 and 1993)	-	3	-
(i) Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing Journal (semi-annual, 1992 and 1993)	-	4	6.0
(ii) Non-recurrent publications:			
(a) Geologial aspects of land-use planning (1993)	4	-	-
(b) Volcanic hazard map of Asia and the Pacific (1992)	8	-	5.0
(c) Seismic hazard map of Asia and the Pacific (1993)	8	-	5.0
(d) Study on assessment of water resources of member countries and demands by user sectors, phase II (1993)	16	-	-
(e) Water Resources Series (1992 and 1993)	16	-	-
(f) Study on waste-water reuse in the region (1993)	16	-	-
(g) Proceedings of remote sensing conferences and meetings (1992 and 1993)	-	1.5	8.0
(h) Reports of pilot studies on regional remote sensing (1993)	-	1.5	55.0
(i) Studies on coastal and nearshore mineral resources and construction materials in East, South-East and South Asian waters (1992 and 1993)	8	-	-
(j) Studies of the progress of member countries in preparing for ratification of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1992 and 1993)	8	-	-
9.3 ***Operational activities***	80	3	2 022.0
(a) Advisory services/group training in environmental and urban geology	5	-	40.0

	Resource requirements (1992-1993) RB (work-months) Existing		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	*Additional*	
(b) Advisory services/group training in mineral resources assessment and development [1]	20	-	550.0
(c) Group training in mineral economics, mineral commodities and mining legislation [2]	4	-	-
(d) Group training in the application of geology for land-use planning	4	-	40.0
(e) Advisory services/group training in promotion of water quality monitoring in the ESCAP region	4	-	65.0
(f) Advisory services/group training in promotion of TCDC in water resources development	6	-	-
(g) Advisory services/group training in promotion of measures for reduction of water-related disasters in Asia and the Pacific, phase II	8	-	300.0
(h) Advisory services/group training in promotion of exchange of information and expertise among the participating institutes in the regional network for training in water resources development, phase III [3]	6	-	40.0
(i) Advisory services/group training in promotion of consideration of the environment in sustainable development of water resources	3	-	75.0
(j) Advisory services/group training/field projects/information exchange on promotion of the building and strengthening of national capabilities in using remote sensing and GIS technologies for resources management and environment monitoring	-	3	592.0
(k) Group training in appraisal of the geology, occurrence, development and management of marine mineral resources	10	-	80.0
(l) Group training in rational implementation of integrated national marine policies under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	10	-	240.0
9.4 *Coordination, harmonization and liaison*	34	1.5	47.0
(a) Technical support to the Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre	4	-	-
(b) Technical support to meetings with government agencies in mineral resources development	3	-	-
(c) Technical support to the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific	4	-	-

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[1] This activity is designed to complement the multidisciplinary activity on the least developed countries (12.3(i)) as well as the activities on human resources development.

[2] This activity is designed to be implemented jointly with subprogramme 8, International trade and development finance (8.3(k)).

[3] Indicating input to multidisciplinary subprogramme 5, Human resources development (5.3(f)).

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	Additional	
(d) Support to the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin	4	-	-
(e) Support to the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones; coordination with the United Nations Steering Committee on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction	9	-	-
(f) Participation in sessions of the ACC (Administrative Committee on Co-ordination) Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources, and attendance at the meeting of the Committee on Natural Resources	2	-	-
(g) Participation in the ACC interagency coordinating meeting on space applications	-	1.5	-
(h) Technical support to CCOP and SOPAC	4	-	-
(i) Technical support to IOMAC	4	-	47.0

Subprogramme 10: Population

Orientation

To promote an integrated approach by Governments in the region to population planning within the overall social and economic development planning; to promote cooperation and exchange of experience between countries in the areas of policy and programme formulation and implementation; and to strengthen the capability of Governments to acquire, analyse, disseminate and utilize population data and information in support of policy formulation and programme implementation.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	144	24	4 000.0
10.1 ***Parliamentary services***	30	-	290.0
(i) Parliamentary documentation:			
(a) Reports to the Commission on issues in the integration of population and development policies, the development of population policies and programmes in the region, and population information issues in the region (1992 and 1993)	6	-	-
(b) Reports to the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference on the state and development of integrated population and development policies in the region, on the status and development of population policies and programmes in the region, and on the status and development of technical information activities in the region (3 in 1992)	4	-	-
(ii) Substantive services:			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (decennial, 1992)	6	-	230.0
(iii) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:			
(a) Third Pre-Conference Seminar for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (1992)	5	-	60.0
(b) Ad hoc expert group meeting on strategy to meet the population information needs of developing countries of the ESCAP region (1993)	5	-	-
10.2 ***Published material***	73	12	2 273.0
(i) Recurrent publications:			
(a) Asia-Pacific Population Journal (quarterly, 1992 and 1993)	1	-	65.0
(b) Population Headliners (monthly, 1992 and 1993)	1	-	30.0
(c) Population Research Leads (3 issues per year, 1992 and 1993)	1	-	20.0

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
(d) Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin (quarterly, 1992 and 1993)	1	-	25.0
(e) Asia-Pacific POPIN Directory: various topics (annual, 1992 and 1993)	1	-	20.0
(f) ESCAP Population Data Sheet (annual, 1992 and 1993)	1	-	-
(ii) Non-recurrent publications:			
(a) Proceedings of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (1992)	4	-	4.0
(b) Jakarta declaration on population and sustainable development (1992)	2	-	7.0
(c) The Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference: selected papers (1992)	5	-	12.0
(d) Studies on implications of changing age structure and changing nuptiality pattern (1993)	5	-	120.0
(e) Study on population-poverty linkages: policy implications for developing countries (1992)[1]	5	-	180.0
(f) Studies on interregional labour migration and on intraregional migration and differential development (1993)	8	-	117.0
(g) Study on population change, urbanization and employment generation policies (1993)	10	-	165.0
(h) Study on population change, women's role and status, and development (1993)[2]	4	-	200.0
(i) Regional study on interaction between clients and family planning workers (1992)	2	-	15.0
(j) Study on the accessibility of contraceptives - China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam (1992)	3	-	90.0
(k) Computation and analysis of fertility rates using standard microcomputer software (1992)	1	-	215.0
(l) Study on consequences of population change in Asia and the Pacific (1993)	3	-	85.0
(m) Periodic review and assessment of population policies and programmes (1993)	3	-	100.0

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[1] This activity will be a component of the multisectoral project on poverty alleviation in coordination with the Agriculture and Rural Development Division. The resources for this activity are 6 work-months of regular budget funds and $US 208,000 of extrabudgetary funds for conducting the study and publishing and disseminating the results.

[2] These activities are designed to complement multidisciplinary subprogramme 15, Women in development (15.2(ii)(c) and 15.3(f)).

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
(n) Manuals/guidelines relating to management information system of MCH (maternal and child health)/family planning programmes (1993)	1	-	380.0
(o) Studies relating to new programme strategies (1992 and 1993)	1	12	125.0
(p) Studies on levels and determinants of fertility and related issues (1993)	3	-	190.0
(q) Asia-Pacific POPIN meeting report (1993)	1	-	10.0
(r) Publications for the Asia-Pacific POPIN Network - catalogues, brochures and manuals	3	-	28.0
(iii) Technical material:			
(a) Asia-Pacific POPIN Databank product and services	3	-	70.0
10.3 *Operational activities*	37.5	12	1 406.0
(a) Advisory missions for the formulation of integrated population and development policies	1	-	50.0
(b) Advisory services to strengthen integrated population and development programmes	3	-	115.0
(c) Advisory services in connection with the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference	6	-	-
(d) Technical and advisory missions on the development and implementation of population policies and programmes	1	-	115.0
(e) Backstopping services for fertility research and programme evaluation activities	1	-	45.0
(f) Substantive support to activities relating to the improvement of the status of women and their participation in development [2]	0.5	2	85.0
(g) Introduction of new programme strategies for the improvement of national family planning programme performance	1	6	85.0
(h) Advisory services to improve management information systems	2	-	85.0
(i) Advisory services and technical assistance services to population information centres in the region with special emphasis on services to least developed, land-locked and island developing countries [3]	6	-	100.0
(j) Coordination of the regional and global Population Information Network (POPIN)	2	-	13.0

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[3] This activity is designed to complement multidisciplinary subprogramme 12, Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries (12.3(k)).

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
(k) Group training improvement of skills of population programme personnel and researchers	1	-	130.0
(l) Substantive support for strengthening the integrated approach to family planning programmes through TCDC, seminars and workshops	1	-	60.0
(m) Promotion of environmental awareness through a seminar/workshop on the interrelationship between population, environment and resources	1	4	130.0
(n) Workshop for the promotion of compatible information management standards and enhanced cooperation among ESCAP regional information networks: population (POPIN), women's affairs (WINAP), health and family welfare (HELLIS) and agriculture (FADINAP)	2	-	40.0
(o) Asia-Pacific POPIN biennial consultative workshop	2	-	80.0
(p) TCDC-based training workshop, technical meeting and personnel exchanges for Asia-Pacific POPIN information centres and networks	2	-	83.0
(q) Grants to Asia-Pacific POPIN member institutions	3	-	95.0
(r) Fellowships, study tours and personnel exchanges to enhance the effectiveness of Asia-Pacific POPIN members with emphasis on TCDC arrangements	2	-	95.0
10.4 ***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	3.5	-	31.0
(a) Coordination with ILO on the following study: implications of changing age structure and changing nuptiality pattern	2	-	10.0
(b) Coordination with ILO, FAO and UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) on the study of population change, women's role and status, and development, and attendance at the meeting of the Population Commission	0.5	-	-
(c) Coordination with the ESCAP Division of Industry, Human Settlements and Environment on the workshops/seminars on production and dissemination of information to promote the awareness of the interrelationship between population, environment and resources	0.5	-	8.0
(d) Coordination with the ESCAP library, the Social Development Division, the Division of Industry, Human Settlements and Environment, the Agriculture and Rural Development Division and the WHO-ESCAP Liaison Office on the continuing development of EBIS-POPFILE as part of the ESCAP Bibliographic Information System	0.5	-	13.0

Subprogramme 11: Social development

Orientation

The main thrust of this subprogramme in 1992-1993 will be geared towards assisting Governments in the formulation and implementation of national policies, plans and programmes to achieve balanced socio-economic development, in line with the framework of a regional social development strategy for Asia and the Pacific. In doing so, emphasis will be placed on the following key areas of work: the monitoring and assessment of the quality of life of the people; planning and delivery of social services, including the role of non-governmental organizations; the participation of disadvantaged social groups in development; crime prevention and criminal justice; the role of the family in development; and drug abuse demand control. With regard to the drug abuse demand control component of the subprogramme, it is planned that that component will be strengthened in line with the United Nations system-wide effort to focus priority attention on this urgent social problem.

All activities in the subprogramme will be targeted to reach marginalized social groups, including the rural and urban poor, women, youth, disabled persons and the elderly. The entire subprogramme therefore is implicitly relevant to subprogramme 5, Human resources development, and subprogramme 15, Women in development, and should be considered complementary to those subprogrammes.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	156	24	1 065.0
11.1 *Parliamentary services*	28	9	-
(i) Parliamentary documentation:			
(a) Report to the Commission on the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development (1992)	2	-	-
(b) Report to the Commission on a regional social development strategy for Asia and the Pacific (1992)	2	-	-
(c) Report to the Commission on a regional indicative plan of action on drug abuse demand reduction (1992)	-	3	-
(d) Report to the Commission on preparatory activities for the International Year of the Family (1993)	3	-	-
(ii) Substantive services:			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting of national personnel on regional and national approaches to drug abuse demand reduction (second quarter, 1992)	-	6	-
(c) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting to review and appraise the achievements of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and to design follow-up programmes (fourth quarter, 1992)	6	-	-
(d) Substantive servicing of a regional intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the International Year of the Family (fourth quarter, 1993)	6	-	-

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		***XB funds (thousands of US dollars)***
	Existing	***Additional***	
(iii) Ad hoc expert group and related preparatory work:			
(a) Ad hoc expert group meeting to assess progress and propose further measures in implementation of a regional social development strategy for Asia and the Pacific (second quarter, 1993)	5	-	-
11.2 *Published material*	65	3	295.0
(i) Recurrent publications:			
(a) Social Development Newsletter (biannual, 1992 and 1993)	6	-	-
(b) Compendium of Social Development Indicators in the ESCAP Region (biennial, 1993)	6	-	-
(ii) Non-recurrent publications:			
(a) Regional social development strategy for Asia and the Pacific (1992)	6	-	6.0
(b) Directory of self-help organizations of disabled persons in the ESCAP region (1992)	6	-	-
(c) Survey of national policies and programmes on the family in the ESCAP region (1992)	6	-	4.0
(d) Study on policies and programmes for the prevention of youth crime in the context of socio-economic development (1992)	6	-	-
(e) Study on the role of the family in development (1993)	7	-	-
(f) Study on policies and programmes concerning the integration of elderly persons in development (1993)	6	-	-
(g) Survey of the quality of life in the ESCAP region (1993) [1]	8	-	160.0
(h) Guidelines on strengthening the role of youth organizations in the promotion of functional literacy among youth (1993)	4	-	100.0
(iii) Technical material:			
(a) Regional information base on drug abuse demand reduction policies and programmes (1993)	4	3	25.0
11.3 *Operational activities*	43	12	770.0
(a) Advisory services to Governments in support of the implementation of a regional social development strategy for Asia and the Pacific	5	-	-
(b) Support to Governments and non-governmental organizations for the strengthening of national efforts to enhance the planning and delivery of social services	7	-	40.0

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[1] Indicating inputs to multidisciplinary subprogramme 5, Human resources development (5.2(ii)(c) and 5.3(c)).

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
	Existing	Additional	
(c) Assistance to Governments in preparation for the observance of the International Year of the Family	6	-	100.0
(d) Advisory services to Governments on the development and implementation of national- and local-level drug abuse demand reduction activities	-	4	30.0
(e) Support to Governments for the development of integrated community-based drug abuse demand reduction programmes	-	4	120.0
(f) Support to Governments for strengthening the regional network of national agencies concerned with the demand aspects of drug abuse reduction	-	4	70.0
(g) Advisory services to Governments to strengthen youth crime prevention policies and programmes	3	-	50.0
(h) Support to Governments for strengthening national training programmes to mobilize youth in development, including the promotion of functional literacy [1]	5	-	110.0
(i) Support to Governments for legislation to promote the participation of disabled persons in development	6	-	80.0
(j) Support to Governments for the promotion of cooperation with self-help organizations of disabled persons	6	-	110.0
(k) Support to Governments for the promotion of the participation of elderly persons in development	5	-	60.0
11.4 *Coordination, harmonization and liaison*	20	-	-
(a) Coordination through meetings and consultations with concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on implementation of a regional social development strategy for Asia and the Pacific	4	-	-
(b) Coordination through meetings of the Asia-Pacific Inter-organizational Task Force on Disability-related Concerns and through consultations on programme planning and implementation on disability issues	4	-	-
(c) Coordination through meetings of the Interagency Committee on Youth for the Asia-Pacific Region and through consultations on programme planning and implementation on youth issues	2	-	-
(d) Coordination through meetings with concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on the demand aspects of drug abuse reduction	4	-	-
(e) Liaison with the Division for Social Development, United Nations Office at Vienna, on regional preparations for the International Year of the Family	2	-	-
(f) Harmonization through consultations with non-governmental organizations on strengthening cooperation between Governments and non-governmental organizations in social development	4	-	-

Subprogramme 12: Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

Orientation

It is noted in the medium-term plan for 1992-1997 that despite the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, the socio-economic situation of this group of countries in the region generally deteriorated in the 1980s. For the most part, the goals set in the Programme were not achieved. Hence, the generally poor economic performance of the least developed countries in the region over the past decade, the growing income disparity between them and most other developing countries in the region, and the large gap between the commitments and actual delivery of international assistance extended to them have raised serious concern about their growth prospects in the years ahead. The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted in Paris in September 1990, calls for action at the national, regional and international levels to revitalize the development of these countries.

The five land-locked countries of the ESCAP region, Afghanistan, Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Nepal (all, except Mongolia, in the least developed country category), suffer from particular transport problems owing to their geographical handicap. They are dependent on the surface transport and transit facilities and services in neighbouring coastal States, involving additional freight costs, time and risks in the conduct of their external trade. These costs and risks cause a reduction in the value of exports and an increase in the costs of imports of the land-locked countries. This limits their capacity to import necessary capital goods and other inputs, leading to low levels of income and economic activities.

With regard to the island developing economies, their growth on average has been the lowest in the ESCAP region. This has led to the long-term decline in the standard of living of most of these economies. Moreover, the low growth has been exacerbated by high volatility in economic performance, and the countries remain extremely vulnerable to economic shocks of both domestic and foreign origin. That vulnerability has created complications and has added costs in designing and implementing development policies and plans. It has also made the task of macro-economic management and stabilization more difficult.

In the light of those concerns, emphasis will be placed on the need to rededicate international commitment to meet the special needs of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, as well as for these countries to make a concerted effort to use more effectively the resources at their command, both those generated internally and those flowing from abroad.

Activities to be undertaken in 1992-1993 in the following other subprogrammes are directly relevant to the multidisciplinary subprogramme on special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and are therefore cross-listed in brackets in this subprogramme: 1, Agriculture and rural development; 3, Energy; 7, Industrial and technological development; 8, International trade and development finance; 9, Natural resources; 10, Population; and 14, Transport and communications.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	96	48	800.0
12.1 ***Parliamentary services***	22	-	-
(i) Parliamentary documentation:			
(a) Reports to the Commission on the socio-economic performance of the least developed countries of the region in the context of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (1992 and 1993)	12	-	-
(ii) Substantive services:			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics (biennial, 1993)	6	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
12.2 *Published material*	30	12	-
(ii) Non-recurrent publications:			
(a) Study on the mobilization of domestic savings in the least developed countries of the ESCAP region (1992)	6	-	-
(b) Study on the economic aspects of social, environmental and human resources development issues in selected least developed countries of the region (1993)	12	-	-
(c) Study on review and evaluation of the process and management of development planning in the least developed countries of the region (1992)	-	12	-
(d) [Studies of agricultural strategy in least developed countries (1993)][1]	[2]	-	[50.0]
(e) Study on patterns and prospects of economic performance and transformation in the Pacific island countries (phase 1, 1992, phase 2, 1993)	12	-	-
(f) [Study on inter-island domestic shipping in the Pacific area (1993)][1]	[4]	-	[40.0]
(g) [Guidelines for infrastructure development and institutional/policy reforms of industrialization of least developed and island developing economies of the region (1993)][1]	[6]	-	[156.0]
12.3 *Operational activities*	38	33	800.0
(a) Cluster meeting on progress in regional cooperation between the least developed and other developing countries (1992)	-	12	200.0
(b) Improvement of project planning and implementation capabilities in the least developed countries of the region (1992)	-	9	-
(c) Strengthening the institutional capabilities of the least developed countries in designing and implementing their macro-economic policies (1993)	-	12	-
(d) Training/seminars and advisory services on review and evaluation of the process and management of development planning in the least developed countries of the region (1992)	8	-	200.0
(e) Strengthening the national development policy and planning processes in the developing island countries of the ESCAP region (1993)	12	-	180.0

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[1] This type of activity is an intersectoral input into multidisciplinary subprogramme 12. Such activities are implemented under subprogramme 1, Agricultural and rural development (1.2(ii)(c) and 1.3 (j)); subprogramme 3, Energy (3.3(g)); subprogramme 7, Industrial and technological development (7.2(ii)(d) and 7.3(k)); subprogramme 8, International trade and development finance (8.3(o)); subprogramme 9, Natural resources (9.3(b)); subprogramme 10, Population (10.3(i)) and subprogramme 14, Transport and communications (14.2(ii)(1)).

		Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
		RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
		Existing	Additional	
(f)	Assessment of development patterns and prospects, and of options in policy and planning for sustainable economic growth and structural transformation in the developing island countries of the ESCAP region (1992)	18	-	220.0
(g)	[Workshops on export promotion in least developed, land-locked and island developing countries][1]	[15]	-	[120.0]
(h)	[Seminar on agricultural strategies for the least developed countries (1992)][1]	[4]	-	-
(i)	[Advisory services/group training in mineral resources assessment and development][1]	[20]	-	[550.0]
(j)	[Special training courses in energy planning for the least developed countries][1]	[4]	-	[100.0]
(k)	[Advisory services and technical assistance services to population information centres in the region with special emphasis on services to least developed, land-locked and island developing countries (1992 and 1993)][1]	[6]	-	[100.0]
(l)	[Human resources requirements for industrial restructuring in least developed and island developing countries][1]	[15]	-	[230.0]
12.4	***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	6	3	-
(a)	Consultations and coordination with UNCTAD in the review and implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s	-	3	-
(b)	Cooperation and consultations with the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC), the Forum Secretariat and the South Pacific Commission (SPC) in undertaking studies, research and technical and advisory assistance programmes in the developing Pacific island economies	6	-	-

Subprogramme 13: Statistics

Orientation

The subprogramme will assist member countries and groups of countries in developing and improving their capability to identify, collect, process, analyse and utilize the data needed for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans and policies; improve the availability of data on the region and its constituent countries, through the gathering from member countries of demographic, social, economic and other statistics, and through their maintenance in a form suitable for retrieval and their dissemination through various means; and foster the utilization of modern information technology in the public sector in order to strengthen the ability at both central and subnational levels to plan and manage economic and social development.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	192	-	1 500.0
13.1 ***Parliamentary services***	20	-	-
(i) Parliamentary documentation:			
(a) Reports to the Commission on issues in statistics and government computerization (1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(ii) Substantive services:			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics (biennial, 1993)	8	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(iii) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:			
(a) Working group of statistical experts (fourth quarter, 1992); reports on various aspects of statistics	4	-	-
(b) Working group of experts on government computerization (first quarter, 1993); reports on various aspects of government computerization	4	-	-
13.2 ***Published material***	70	-	30.0
(i) Recurrent publications:			
(a) Statistical Newsletter (quarterly, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(b) Sample Surveys in the ESCAP Region (annual, 1992 and 1993)	3	-	-
(c) Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific (annual, 1992 and 1993)	20	-	-

			Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
			RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
			Existing	*Additional*	
	(d)	Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific (annual, 1992 and 1993)	6	-	-
	(e)	Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (quarterly, 1992 and 1993)	8	-	-
	(f)	Asia-Pacific in Figures (annual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
	(g)	Government Computerization Newsletter (biannual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(ii)	*Non-recurrent publications:*				
	(a)	Statistical Profiles by Subregion (3 in 1992-1993)	3	-	-
	(b)	Guidelines for collecting, analysing and disseminating statistics and indicators on human resources development (1993) [1]	2	-	10.0
	(c)	Methodological manual on the collection and utilization of statistics relating to women (1993) [2]	2	-	10.0
	(d)	Operational handbook on environmental indicators (1993)	2	-	10.0
(iii)	*Technical material:*				
	(a)	Distribution of information from statistical databases	8	-	-
	(b)	Ad hoc statistical information services and special compilations	6	-	-
13.3	***Operational activities***		88	-	1 470.0
	(a)	Advisory missions on various aspects of statistics and government computerization	24	-	955.0
	(b)	Group training/seminar/workshop activities on various aspects of statistics and government computerization	60	-	515.0
	(c)	Technical and substantive support to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	4	-	-
13.4	***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***		14	-	-
	Coordination with other programmes as well as at the inter-agency level will be undertaken through the United Nations Statistical Commission, the ACC (Administrative Committee on Co-ordination) Sub-committee on Statistical Activities and its Technical Working Group on Statistical Data Bases, and the Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (ACCIS), and attendance at the meeting of the Statistical Commission.		14	-	-

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[1] Indicating input to multidisciplinary subprogramme 5, Human resources development (5.2(ii)(d)).

[2] Indicating input to multidisciplinary subprogramme 15, Women in development (15.2(ii)(d)).

Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
Existing	*Additional*	

Regular consultations will be conducted with the United Nations Statistical Office, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, many of the specialized agencies, including ILO, FAO, UNESCO, the World Bank, IMF and UNIDO, and other United Nations bodies, including UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA and UNIFEM, as well as the other regional commissions.

Coordination will also be effected with bodies outside the United Nations such as the Asian Development Bank, Asian Institute of Technology, Asian Productivity Organization, International Statistical Institute, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, South Pacific Commission, Statistical Office of the European Communities and World Resources Institute.

Subprogramme 14: Transport and communications

Orientation

The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 35/56 and 39/227; the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries as it applies to the improvement of transport and communications infrastructure; Commission resolution 236 (XL);[5] Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/78; and the Declaration on the Launching of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 by the Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications.

There are great differences in the current development status of the transport and communications sectors of the developing countries of the ESCAP region. This is mainly due to the complexities of geography and location, especially in least developed, archipelagic and land-locked countries, and the different levels of economic development, including the countries' development perspectives and policy orientations. However, some common factors have prevented the developing countries from acquiring modern and efficient transport and communications systems. Among those factors are insufficient investment, deficiency in management, lack of integrated planning and coordination among different modes of transport, the slow pace of technological improvement, inadequate manpower development, the outdated legislative and commercial framework, lack of statistics, and low private sector involvement.

The provision of adequate transport and communications infrastructure is essential to support the economic and social development of the countries of the region, which is proceeding at a faster rate than in other regions. The inadequacies of the infrastructure are apparent and, unless rectified, will hinder future economic and social development.

The objectives of the subprogramme are the following:

(a) To improve the transport and communications services and infrastructural facilities of the developing countries of the ESCAP region to a level commensurate with their development objectives and priorities through the development of appropriate, well-balanced, coordinated and efficient transport and communications systems;

(b) To promote interregional, regional and subregional coordination to achieve collective self-reliance in transport and communications systems;

(c) To review and identify major regional problems in transport and communications and to assist in the implementation of approaches to overcome those problems;

(d) To assist in improving the operational efficiency of transport and transport networks;

(e) To evaluate and promote technology transfer for efficient operation and maintenance of transport and communications with special reference to low-cost technology.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	360	72	3 600.0
14.1 ***Parliamentary services***	68	15	-
(i) Parliamentary documentation:			
(a) Report to the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications on a review of the developments in transport and communications in the ESCAP region (1992)	5	4	-
(b) Report to the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 39/227 on the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 (1992)	2	1	-
(c) Reports to the Commission on the implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 (1992 and 1993)	5	2	-

		Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
		RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
		Existing	Additional	
(d)	Report to the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications on the implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 (1992)	3	2	-
(e)	Report to the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications on the development of land transport linkages (1992)	5	-	-
(f)	Report to the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications on the mechanism for strengthening the inland water transport training and development activities in the region (1992)	5	-	-
(g)	Report to the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications on major problems in human resources development in land transport (1992)[1]	5	-	-
(h)	Report to the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications on the implementation of a regional action programme on telecommunication (1992)	3	-	-
(ii)	*Substantive services:*			
(a)	Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	1	-
(b)	Substantive servicing of the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications (biennial, 1992)	12	1	-
(c)	Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting on telecommunications policy (1992)	4	-	-
(d)	Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental highway group meeting (1993)	4	-	-
(e)	Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental railway group meeting (1993)	4	-	-
(f)	Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting of highway and railway officials (1993)	4	-	-
(g)	Substantive servicing of a meeting of ministers responsible for transport and communications (1992)	5	4	-
14.2	***Published material***	112	41	1 405.0
(i)	*Recurrent publications:*			
(a)	Review of developments in transport and communications in the ESCAP region (biennial, 1993)	4	7	-
(b)	Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (annual, 1992 and 1993)	10	2	-

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[1] Indicating input to multidisciplinary subprogramme 5, Human resources development (5.1(i)(c)).

		Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
		RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
		Existing	Additional	
	(c) Newsletter on the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 (biannual, 1992 and 1993)	4	4	-
	(d) Inland water transport bulletin (annual, 1992 and 1993)	7	-	-
(ii)	*Non-recurrent publications:*			
	(a) Asian Highway route maps (1992 and 1993)	10	-	120.0
	(b) ESCAP handbook on container terminals in the region (1993)	-	4	30.0
	(c) Study on the development of intermodal transport in the ESCAP region (1993)	-	6	30.0
	(d) Study on fuel-efficiency measures for small-sized vessels (1993)	4	-	40.0
	(e) Manual on planning environmentally sound port development (1992)[2]	5	-	120.0
	(f) Manual and computer software on regional container flows and shipping requirements (1992)	5	-	60.0
	(g) Manual and computer software in port capacity modelling (1992)	-	6	80.0
	(h) Training manual on electronic data interchange in transport (1992)	-	6	95.0
	(i) Manual and computer software for smaller port management reporting (1992)	-	6	80.0
	(j) Manual and computer software on fuel-efficiency investment appraisal (1992)	6	-	80.0
	(k) Study on the problems of the ecological and environmental impact of the development of inland waterways and dredging, and their solutions (1992)	5	-	80.0
	(l) Study on inter-island domestic shipping in the Pacific area (1993)[3]	4	-	40.0
	(m) Essays on maritime legislation (1993)	4	-	80.0
	(n) Manual and computer software to assist inland water transport management (1993)	6	-	80.0
	(o) Study on the status and requirements of dredging in the ESCAP region (1993)	4	-	30.0
	(p) Manual and computer software on rail line rehabilitation modernization and construction (1992)	6	-	120.0
	(q) ESCAP directory of railway training institutions (1993)	4	-	20.0

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[2] Indicating input into subprogramme 4, Environment.

[3] Indicating input to multidisciplinary subprogramme 12, Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries (12.2(ii)(f)).

		Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
		RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
		Existing	*Additional*	
(r)	Guidelines for the conversion of diesel buses to compressed natural gas (1993)	5	-	20.0
(s)	Manual and computer software on training in urban transport planning (1993)	6	-	120.0
(t)	ESCAP guide to railway research (1993)	5	-	20.0
(u)	Guide to road and road transport institutions (1993)	6	-	30.0
(v)	Study on the impact of the shipusers' cooperation project on the shippers' movement in the ESCAP region (1993)	2	-	30.0
14.3	*Operational activities*	170	12	2 110.0
(a)	Development of transport databases and information systems through studies, meetings or advisory services	6	6	80.0
(b)	Assistance to members and associate members on policy and planning for transport and communications through studies, meetings or advisory services	10	2	80.0
(c)	Promotion of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, through studies, meetings or advisory services	10	2	150.0
(d)	Assistance to members and associate members on the development of the regional action programme for the Decade through studies, meetings or advisory services	10	2	120.0
(e)	Development of the Asian land transport infrastructure, through studies, meetings or advisory services	10	-	120.0
(f)	Promotion of intermodal transport through studies, meetings or advisory services	10	-	120.0
(g)	Development of inland water transport through studies, meetings or advisory services	12	-	80.0
(h)	Upgrading of dredging capability through studies, meetings or advisory services	8	-	120.0
(i)	Development of sea transport through studies, meetings or advisory services	12	-	200.0
(j)	Promotion of port development through studies, meetings or advisory services	12	-	250.0
(k)	Development of roads and road transport through studies, meetings or advisory services	12	-	150.0
(l)	Development of railways through studies, meetings or advisory services	12	-	150.0
(m)	Development of urban transport planning through studies, meetings or advisory services	12	-	200.0

		Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
		RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
		Existing	*Additional*	
(n)	Development of cooperation in transport and communications industries through studies, meetings or advisory services	12	-	120.0
(o)	Ten fellowships for training in the fields of dredging, inland water transport and hydraulic engineering	6	-	60.0
(p)	Ten port middle-management fellowships	6	-	60.0
(q)	Meeting of chief executives of shippers' organizations of the region (third quarter, 1992)	2	-	10.0
(r)	Meeting of chief executives of freight forwarders' associations of the region (first quarter, 1993)	2	-	10.0
(s)	Meeting of chief executives of port authorities of the region (second quarter, 1993)	2	-	10.0
(t)	Meeting of chief executives of shipowners' organizations of the region (third quarter, 1993)	2	-	10.0
(u)	Meeting of the railway research coordination group (fourth quarter, 1993)	2	-	10.0
14.4	***Coordination, harmonization and liaison***	10	4	85.0
(a)	Coordination of the formulation of the regional action programme for the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, through working group meetings of representatives of United Nations agencies, as well as international lending agencies, subregional organizations, national coordinating committees and non-governmental organizations	4	2	30.0
(b)	Development and implementation of joint projects or studies with United Nations specialized agencies on maritime training, sea transport, urban transport planning and intermodalism	6	-	35.0
(c)	Inter-agency consultative meeting for the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 (third quarter, 1992)	-	2	20.0

Subprogramme 15: Women in development

Orientation

This new multidisciplinary subprogramme will, in the biennium 1992-1993, focus on the regional implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, with specific reference to the effective mobilization and integration of women in development. The main thrust of the subprogramme will be: (i) strengthening of the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP) through advisory services and training to assist national women's information centres in collecting, analysing, processing and disseminating relevant information; (ii) development of gender-disaggregated data and indicators as a basis for the formulation and application of effective national policies for the integration of women in development; (iii) analysis of women's participation in the economy, with special reference to the role of women in the informal sector and the means whereby their productivity in that sector may be enhanced; and (iv) monitoring of the implementation of international conventions, strategies and instruments for the advancement of women in development.

Activities to be undertaken in 1992-1993 in the following other subprogrammes are directly relevant to the multidisciplinary subprogramme on women in development and are therefore cross-listed in brackets in this subprogramme: 1, Agriculture and rural development; 2, Development issues and policies; 6, Human Settlements; 7, Industrial and technological development; 10, Population; and 13, Statistics. Furthermore, all the activities in subprogramme 11, Social development, are implicitly relevant to the orientation of subprogramme 15; subprogramme 11 should therefore be considered as complementary to this one.

Activities	*Resource requirements (1992-1993)*		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
Subprogramme total:	48	-	1 160.0
15.1 ***Parliamentary services***	12	-	-
(i) Parliamentary documentation:			
(a) Report to the Commission on the integration of women's concerns in development planning (1992)	1	-	-
(b) Report to the Commission on the role of women in the informal sector (1993)	1	-	-
(c) Report to the Commission on the intergovernmental meeting to review the implementation in the ESCAP region of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (1993)	1	-	-
(ii) Substantive services:			
(a) Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (annual, 1992 and 1993)	2	-	-
(b) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting to review the implementation in the ESCAP region of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (third quarter, 1993)	4	-	-
(iii) Ad hoc expert group and related preparatory work:			
(a) Ad hoc expert group meeting to prepare for an intergovernmental meeting to review the implementation in the ESCAP region of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (second quarter, 1993)	3	-	-

	Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
	RB (work-months)		*XB funds (thousands of US dollars)*
	Existing	*Additional*	
15.2 ***Published material***	14	-	-
(i) Recurrent publications:			
(a) WINAP Newsletter (biannual, 1992 and 1993)	4	-	-
(b) Directory of Women Experts in Asia and the Pacific (biennial, 1992)	2	-	-
(c) Directory of National Focal Points for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific (biennial, 1993)	2	-	-
(ii) Non-recurrent publications:			
(a) Study on the implementation in the ESCAP region of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (1993)	4	-	-
(b) Guidelines for improving the status of women in Asia and the Pacific (1993)	2	-	-
(c) [Study on population change, women's role and status, and development (1993)] [1]	[4]	-	[200.0]
(d) [Methodological manual on the collection and utilization of statistics relating to women (1993)] [2]	[2]	-	[10.0]
(e) [Study on women in development (1992)] [3]	[6]	-	[15.0]
(f) [Promotion of women's participation in industrial and technological development (1992-1993)] [4]	[2.5]	-	[90.0]
15.3 ***Operational activities***	14	-	1 160.0
(a) Advisory services to Governments in support of the regional implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women	4	-	100.0
(b) Advisory services to strengthen national focal points for the advancement of women	4	-	100.0
(c) Support to Governments for strengthening of national mechanisms for the advancement of women, including the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP)	6	-	960.0

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[1] Indicating activities to be implemented under subprogramme 10, Population (10.2(ii)(h) and 10.3(f)) as inputs into multidisciplinary subprogramme 15.

[2] Indicating activity to be implemented under subprogramme 13, Statistics (13.2(ii)(c)) as input into multidisciplinary subprogramme 15.

[3] Indicating activity to be implemented under subprogramme 2, Development issues and policies (2.2(ii)(k)) as input into multidisciplinary subprogramme 15.

[4] Indicating activities to be implemented under subprogramme 7, Industrial and technological development (7.2(ii)(j) and 7.3(j)) as inputs into multidisciplinary subprogramme 15.

		Resource requirements (1992-1993)		
		RB (work-months)		XB funds (thousands of US dollars)
		Existing	Additional	
(d)	[Seminar on the role of women in agricultural development (1992)][5]	[4]	-	[50.0]
(e)	[Action research on poverty alleviation with focus on employment generation among rural disadvantaged groups, including rural women][5]	[6]	-	[80.0]
(f)	[Substantive support to activities relating to the improvement of the status of women and their participation in development][1]	[2.5]	-	[85.0]
(g)	[Women's involvement in industry and technology][4]	[15]	-	[180.0]
(h)	[Advisory services for strengthening the role of women in community organizations for settlements improvement][6]	[2]	-	[36.0]
15.4	*Coordination, harmonization and liaison*	8	-	-
(a)	Coordination through meetings of the Inter-agency Committee on Women in Development and through consultations on regional implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women	2	-	-
(b)	Liaison through consultations with non-governmental organizations on measures to strengthen the participation of women in development	2	-	-
(c)	Liaison with the Division for the Advancement of Women, United Nations Office at Vienna, on system-wide programme planning in the field of women in development and on regional preparations for the 1995 world conference on women	2	-	-
(d)	Coordination through meetings and consultations with concerned ESCAP divisions/units on integrating women's concerns into all aspects of development	2	-	-

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[5] Indicating activities to be implemented under subprogramme 1, Agricultural and rural development (1.3(l) and 1.3(q)) as inputs into multidisciplinary subprogramme 15.

[6] Indicating activity to be implemented under subprogramme 6, Human settlements (6.3(g)) as input into multidisplinary subprogramme 15.

Appendix

Proposed regional advisers requested under section 24 of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Subprogramme	
Development issues and policies	Regional adviser on development economics and planning (EPOC)
Energy	Regional adviser on energy
Environment	Regional adviser on environmental management
Industrial and technological development	Regional adviser on technology transfer and development
International trade and development finance	1. Regional adviser on development policies for raw materials and commodities
	2. Regional adviser on trade policy, negotiations and trade promotion
Natural resources (including marine affairs)	Regional adviser on water resources
Social development	1. Regional adviser on social development policy and planning
	2. Regional adviser on women in development
Statistics	1. Regional adviser on national accounts
	2. Regional adviser on social statistics
Transport and communications	Regional adviser on ports and harbours development (EPOC)

Annex II

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

In the implementation, of the following resolutions, there are no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

Resolution 47/1 on the Seoul Declaration on Regional Cooperation

Resolution 47/2 on the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific

Resolution 47/3 on restructuring the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission

Resolution 47/5 on regional support for the alleviation of poverty

Resolution 47/6 on assistance to the countries in the Asian and Pacific region affected by the Persian Gulf crisis

Resolution 47/7 on integration of environment and development in Asia and the Pacific

Resolution 47/9 on international cooperation on labour migration between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions

Resolution 47/11 on interregional cooperation in the area of trade facilitation

Resolution 47/12 on regional follow-up of the World Summit for Children

Resolution 47/13 on the International Year of the Family

The regular budget resources required to implement the activities contained in the following resolutions have already been included in the ESCAP programme budget proposals for the biennium 1992-1993 in the respective programmes on (a) special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, (b) subprogramme on natural resources and (c) subprogramme on transport and communications.

Resolution 47/4 on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

Resolution 47/8 on regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems

Resolution 47/10 on phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994

Annex III

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report* [a]
Committee on Population and Social Development		Second session Bangkok 19-23 November 1990	E/ESCAP/778
Chairman:	Syed Abdul Rahman Bin Syed Mohd. (Malaysia)		
Vice-Chairmen:	E.H. Choe (Republic of Korea)		
	B.A.B. Goonetilleke (Sri Lanka)		
Rapporteur:	Sarita S. Mani (Fiji)		
Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications		Thirteenth session Bangkok 17-21 December 1990	E/ESCAP/793
Chairman:	Sawarng Srinilta (Thailand)		
Vice-Chairman:	B.K. Amini (Papua New Guinea)		
Rapporteur:	Hans P.T. de Jong (Netherlands)		
Committee on Trade		Twenty-seventh session Bangkok 11-15 February 1991	E/ESCAP/775
Chairman:	Sukon Kanchanalai (Thailand)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Zhang Baohe (China)		
	Murray A. Cobban (Australia)		
Rapporteur:	Kh. Zaheer Ahmed (Pakistan)		

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[a] Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

Annex IV

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. Sales publications

Title	*United Nations publication sales number*
Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region	
Vol. 6, Viet Nam	E.90.II.F.10
Vol. 7, Lao People's Democratic Republic	E.90.II.F.14
Development Papers	
No. 8 Institutional Relations in Development	E.91.II.F.3
No. 9 Econometric Modelling and Forecasting in Asia	E.91.II.F.7
Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1990	E.91.II.F.10
Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific	
Vol. XXXIX, No. 2, December 1988	E.90.II.F.13
Vol. XL, No. 1/2, June/December 1989	E.91.II.F.2
ESCAP Atlas of Stratigraphy IX, Triassic Biostratigraphy and Paleogeography of Asia (Mineral Resources Development Series No. 59)	E.90.II.F.9
Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1984-1988	E/F.91.II.F.8
Industrial Development News for Asia and the Pacific, No. 18/19	E.91.II.F.5
Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific	
Vol. XX, No. 2, June 1990	E.90.II.F.8
Vol. XX, No. 3, September 1990	E.90.II.F.12
Vol. XX, No. 4, December 1990	E.91.II.F.4
Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 1990	E/F.91.II.F.1
Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 61	E.90.II.F.11

B. Documents submitted to the Commission

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/749 and Corr.1	Policies and perspectives for the economic and social development of the ESCAP region: impact of some recent international developments on the economies of Asia and the Pacific and their development prospects	4 (b)
E/ESCAP/750 and Corr.1	The August 1990 oil price shock and its impact on developing economies of the ESCAP region	4 (b)
E/ESCAP/751	Industrial restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, in particular with a view to strengthening regional co-operation	5
E/ESCAP/752	International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade in the context of the development of the ESCAP region	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/753 and Add.1 and 2	Report of the secretariat's activities in support of the implementation in the ESCAP region of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/754	International initiatives in the field of economic and social development: Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations	6 (c)

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/755	Overview of the draft programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7
E/ESCAP/756	Tentative calendar of meetings, 1991/92	7
E/ESCAP/757	Report of the implementation of the programme of work and priorities, 1990-1991	7
E/ESCAP/758	Participatory approach to rural development for poverty alleviation and other selected issues in the field of food, agriculture and rural development	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/759	Agricultural development strategy for the least developed countries in the 1990s	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/760	Report on the Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/761	Development issues and policies: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/762	Medium-term strategy for regional energy co-operation	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/763	Regional Energy Development Programme: progress report	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/764	Pacific Energy Development Programme: progress report	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/765	Report on the implementation of Commission resolution 274 (XLIV) on the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region	7 (d)
E/ESCAP/766	Human resources development: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (d)
E/ESCAP/767	Follow-up to the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and other issues and programmes	7 (e)
E/ESCAP/768 and Corr.1	Policies and perspectives on the environment in Asia and the Pacific: the challenges of the 1990s	7 (e)
E/ESCAP/769	Changing patterns of human settlements in Asia and the Pacific and current issues and programmes in urbanization	7 (f)
E/ESCAP/770	Preparations for the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology	7 (g)
E/ESCAP/771	Review of selected issues in standardization	7 (g)
E/ESCAP/772	Enhancing technology flow among developing Asian and Pacific countries through regional co-operation	7 (g)
E/ESCAP/773 and Corr.1	Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	7 (g)
E/ESCAP/774	Report on the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery	7 (g)
E/ESCAP/775	Report of the Committee on Trade on its twenty-seventh session	7 (h)
E/ESCAP/776	International trade and development finance: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (h)
E/ESCAP/777	Main issues and programmes in the field of natural resources, including marine affairs	7 (i)
E/ESCAP/778	Report of the Committee on Population and Social Development on its second session	7 (j)

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/779	Report on the Preparations for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference	7 (j)
E/ESCAP/780	Multidisciplinary regional population strategies for the 1990s	7 (j)
E/ESCAP/781	Population: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (j)
E/ESCAP/782	Social development: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (k)
E/ESCAP/783	Report on social aspects of rural development	7 (k)
E/ESCAP/784	Report on the implementation of Commission resolution 46/5 on regional follow-up of the World Conference on Education for All - Meeting Basic Learning Needs	7 (k)
E/ESCAP/785	Report of the Meeting of Senior Officials on Drug Abuse Issues in Asia and the Pacific	7 (k)
E/ESCAP/786	Report on preparations for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development	7 (k)
E/ESCAP/787	Report on the implementation of Commission resolution 46/6 on the integration of women in all aspects of development	7 (l)
E/ESCAP/788	Women in development: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (l)
E/ESCAP/789	Selected programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (m)
E/ESCAP/790	Changing role of statistical offices in national development in the 1990s	7 (n)
E/ESCAP/791	Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	7 (n)
E/ESCAP/792	ESCAP/ITU/APT joint plan of action in telecommunications	7 (o)
E/ESCAP/793	Report of the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications on its thirteenth session	7 (o)
E/ESCAP/794	Transport and communications: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (o)
E/ESCAP/795	Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries	8
E/ESCAP/796	Special problems faced by the Pacific island countries: the Commission's activities in the Pacific	9
E/ESCAP/797	In-depth study of the intergovernmental subsidiary structure of the Commission	10
E/ESCAP/798 and Corr.1	Report of the Group of Eminent Persons on Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission, to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP	10
E/ESCAP/799	Establishment of an ESCAP council for regional economic co-operation	10
E/ESCAP/800	Mobilization of extrabudgetary resources	11
E/ESCAP/801	The viability and cost-effectiveness of establishing a regional inland water transport centre in Bangladesh and of the alternatives of strengthening the secretariat or using a network approach	7 (o)
E/ESCAP/802	Report of the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas	12

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/803	Report of the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, 1990	12
E/ESCAP/804	Report of the Typhoon Committee	12
E/ESCAP/805 and Add.1	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	13
E/ESCAP/806	Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the forty-eighth session of the Commission	14
E/ESCAP/807	Agriculture and rural development: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/808	Energy: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/809	Environment: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (e)
E/ESCAP/810	Human settlements: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (f)
E/ESCAP/811	Industrial and technological development: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (g)
E/ESCAP/812	Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery beyond 1991 (Phase V, 1992-1996)	7 (g)
E/ESCAP/813	Natural resources (including marine affairs): proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (i)
E/ESCAP/814	Statistics: proposed programme of work and priorities, 1992-1993	7 (n)
E/ESCAP/815 and Corr.1	Technical co-operation activities in Asia and the Pacific in 1990: information papers presented by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development	11
E/ESCAP/816	Human Resources Development Award - 1990	7 (d)
E/ESCAP/817	Report of the Meeting of Senior Officials on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific	7 (e)
E/ESCAP/818	Resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council	7
E/ESCAP/819	Consideration of the application of Macau for associate membership in ESCAP	15
E/ESCAP/820	Consideration of the application of Kiribati for full membership in ESCAP	15
E/ESCAP/821	Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre	12

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of . . . an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East", and

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration;

[illegible]

(f) In carry out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kiribati, Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hong Kong, Kiribati, Niue, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau and the Territory of American Samoa.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organizations to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and co-operation with other regional economic commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairman.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VI

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to [illegible]

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in category I, subject to the provisions of rule 6; and

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in category I may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

[illegible]

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its sub-commissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. .He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its sub-commissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule 6*(b)*, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in categories I and II and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, [illegible]

committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in categories I and II and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving co-ordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in categories I and II may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. [illegible]

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in categories I and II on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in category I will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in category II will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)* and *(e)* above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in category I or II either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54*(d)* and *(e)* shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUB-COMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and sub-committees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, sub-committees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the

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